

Chip Zdarsky • Mark Bagley • John Dell • Frank D'Armata

# SPIDER-MAN

*Life Story* 3 The '80s





In 1962, a fifteen-year-old boy named PETER PARKER was bitten by a radioactive spider and became the crimefighting super hero called SPIDER-MAN! But Peter quickly learned that the pressures of being a hero took a toll, not just on him, but also his loved ones. Soon after Peter discovered that Miles Warren had cloned Norman Osborn, Gwen Stacy and Peter himself, Harry Osborn burned Warren's lab to the ground. Peter tried to save the clones, but only his own survived. And when Warren revealed that the woman Peter thought was his wife was the clone and the Gwen he first fell in love with had been lost in the explosion, Peter fell to pieces...

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# SPIDER-MAN: LIFE STORY

## CHAPTER THREE: OUR SECRET WARS

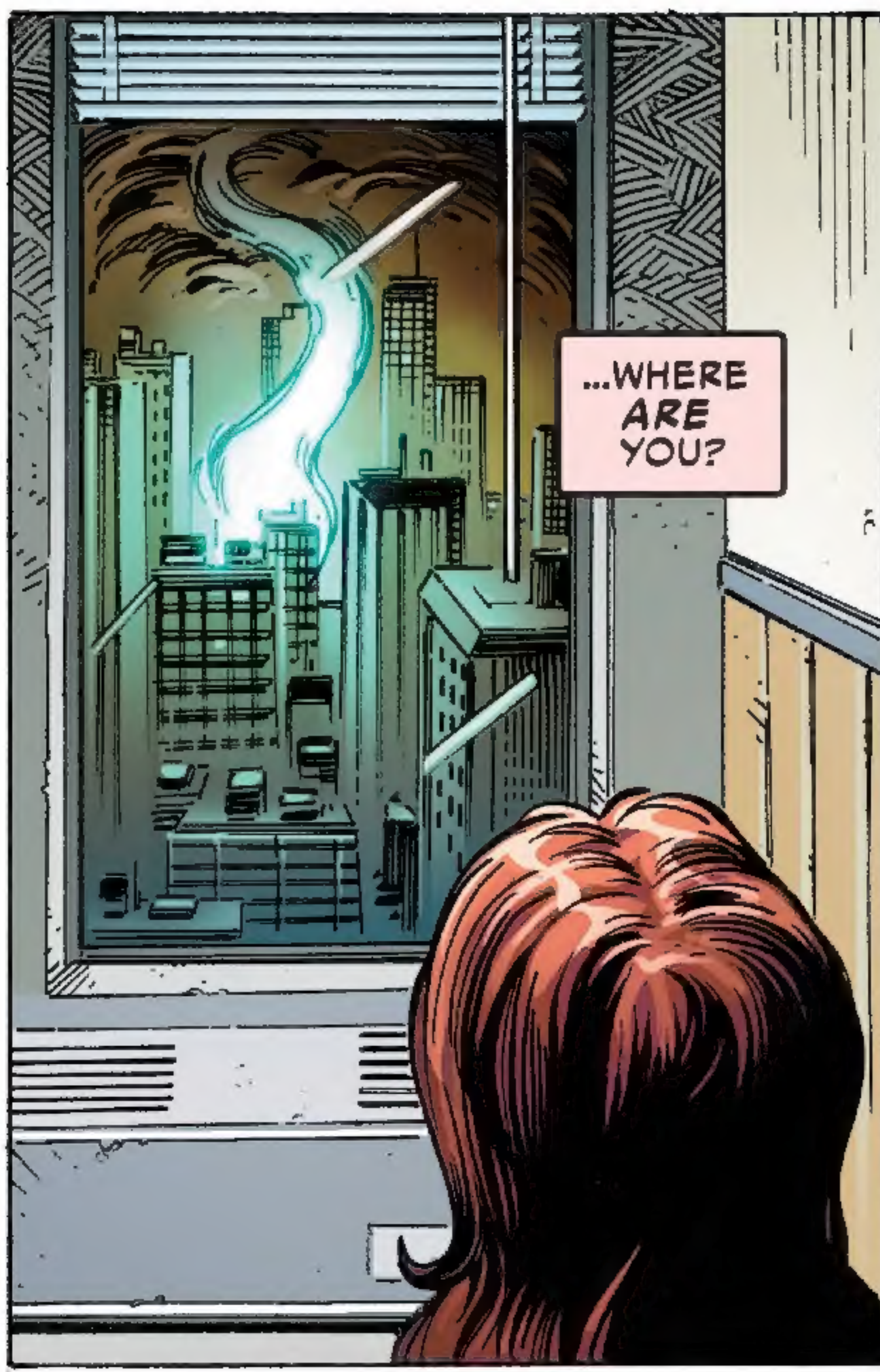
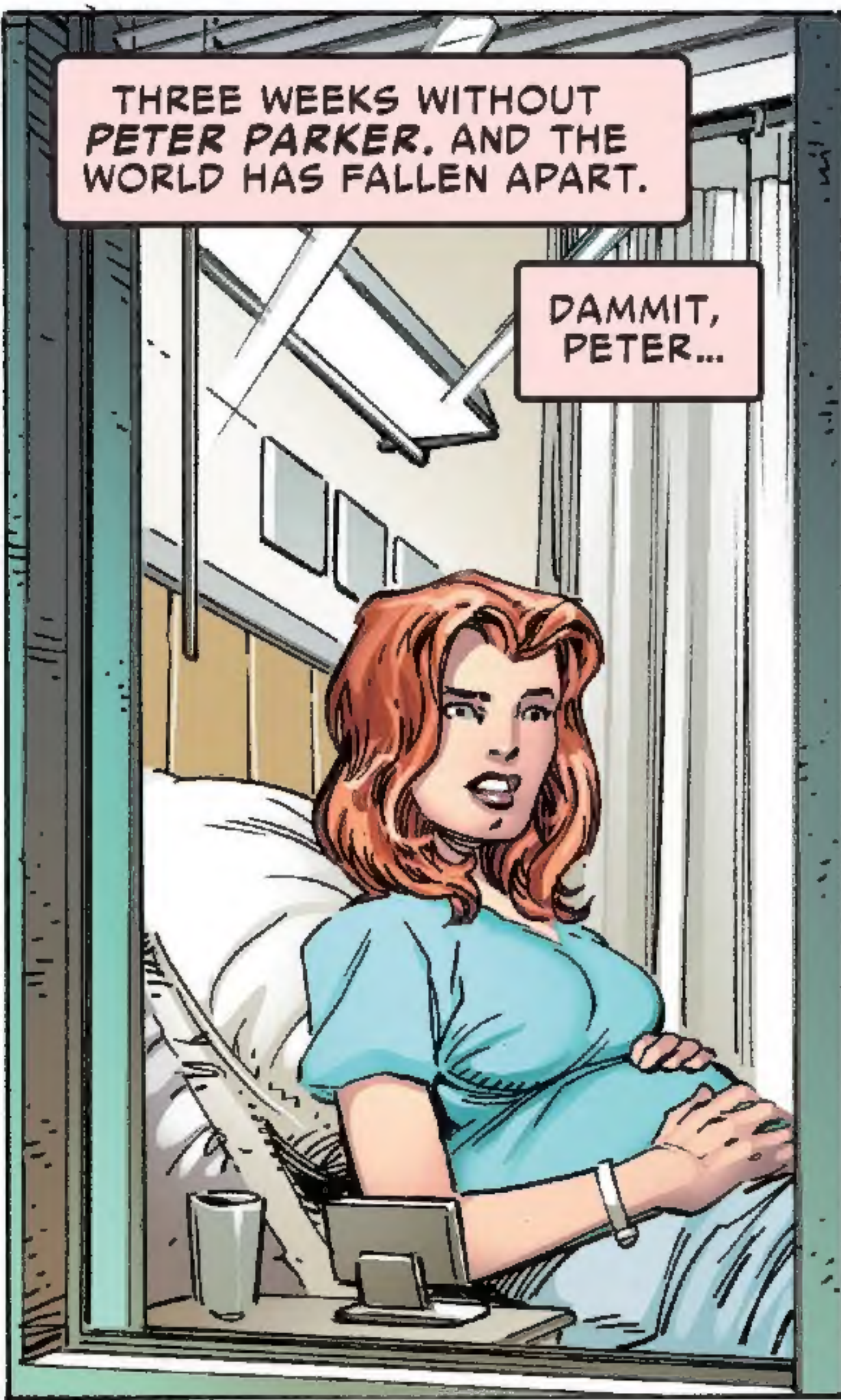
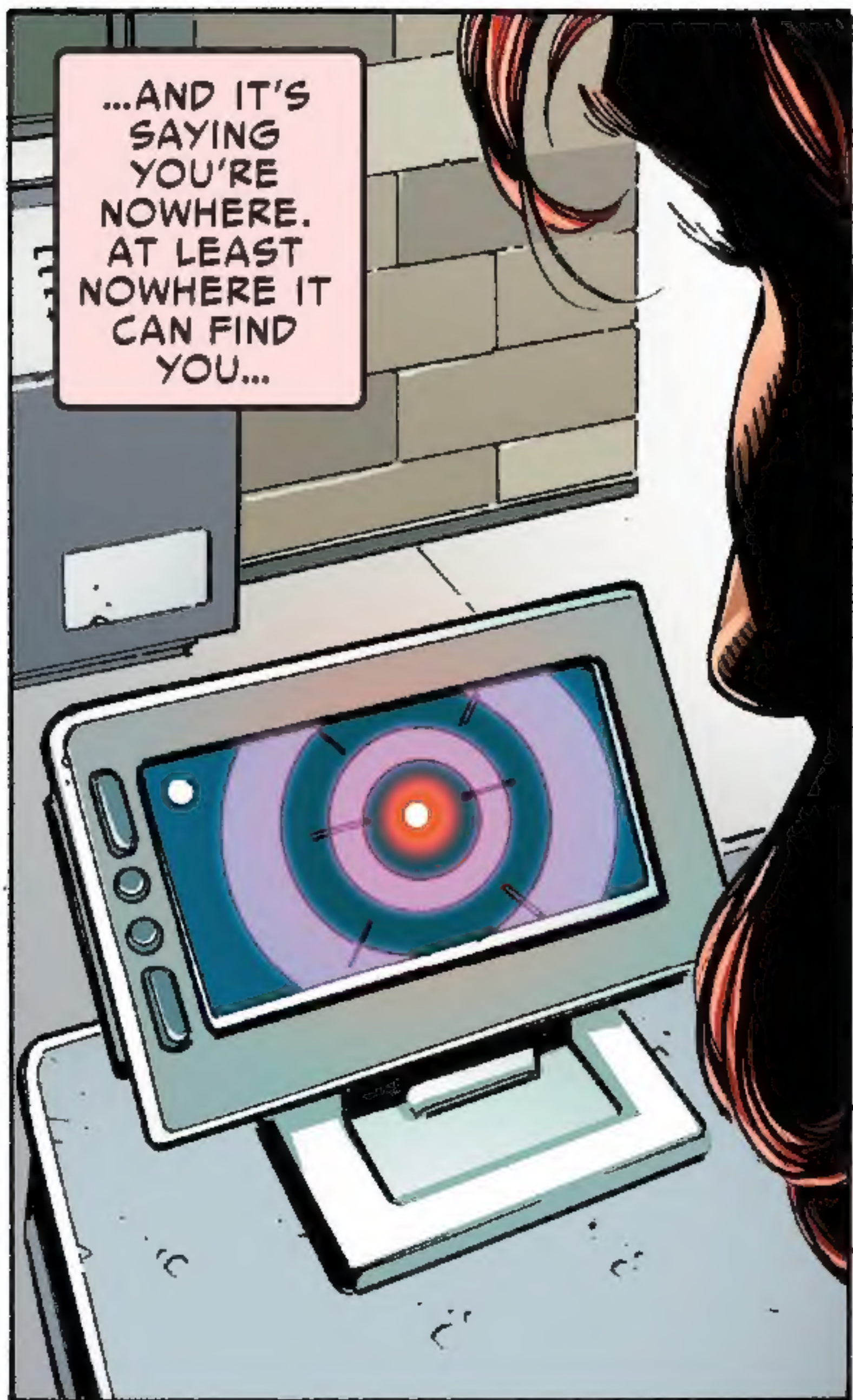
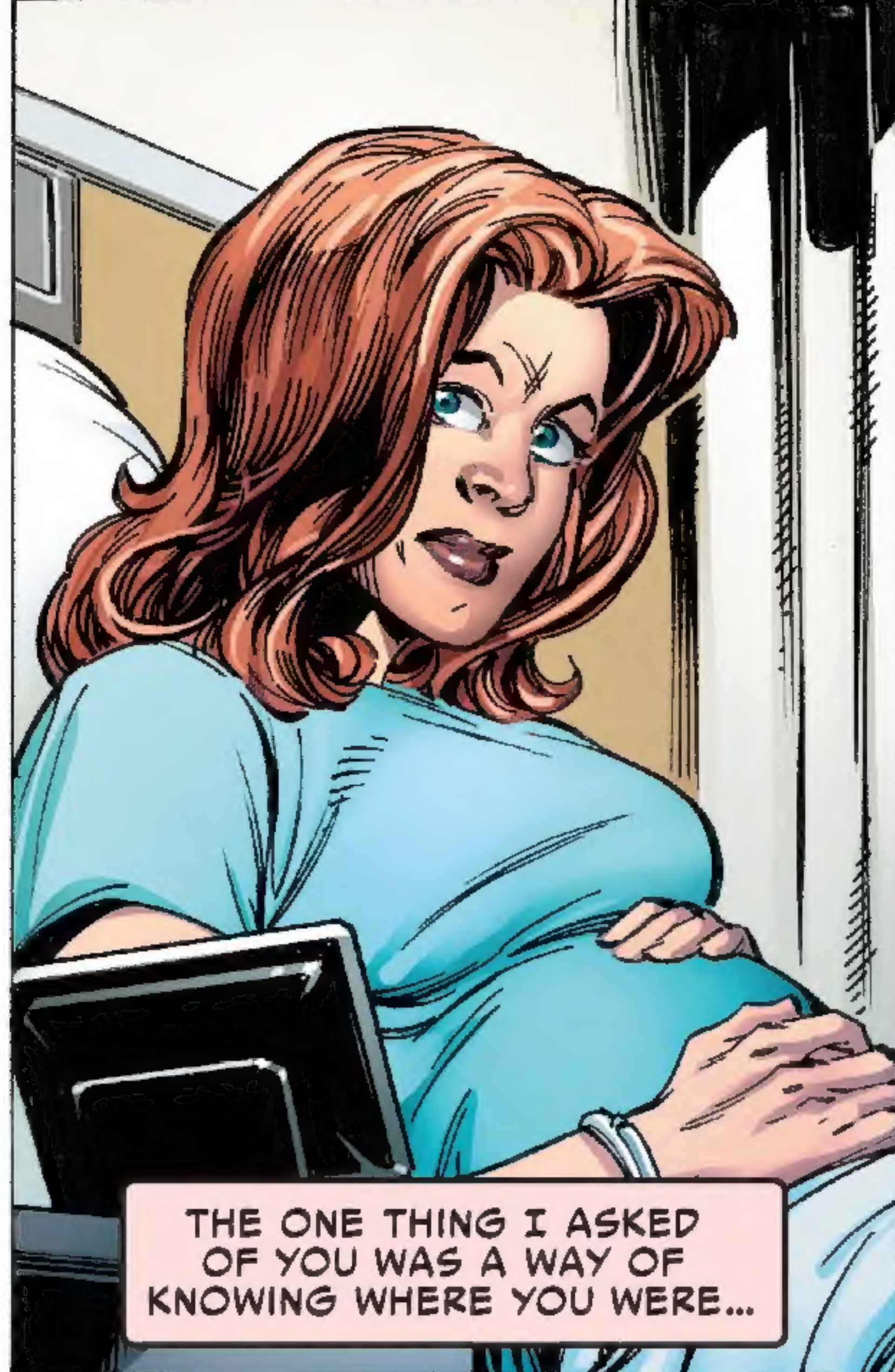
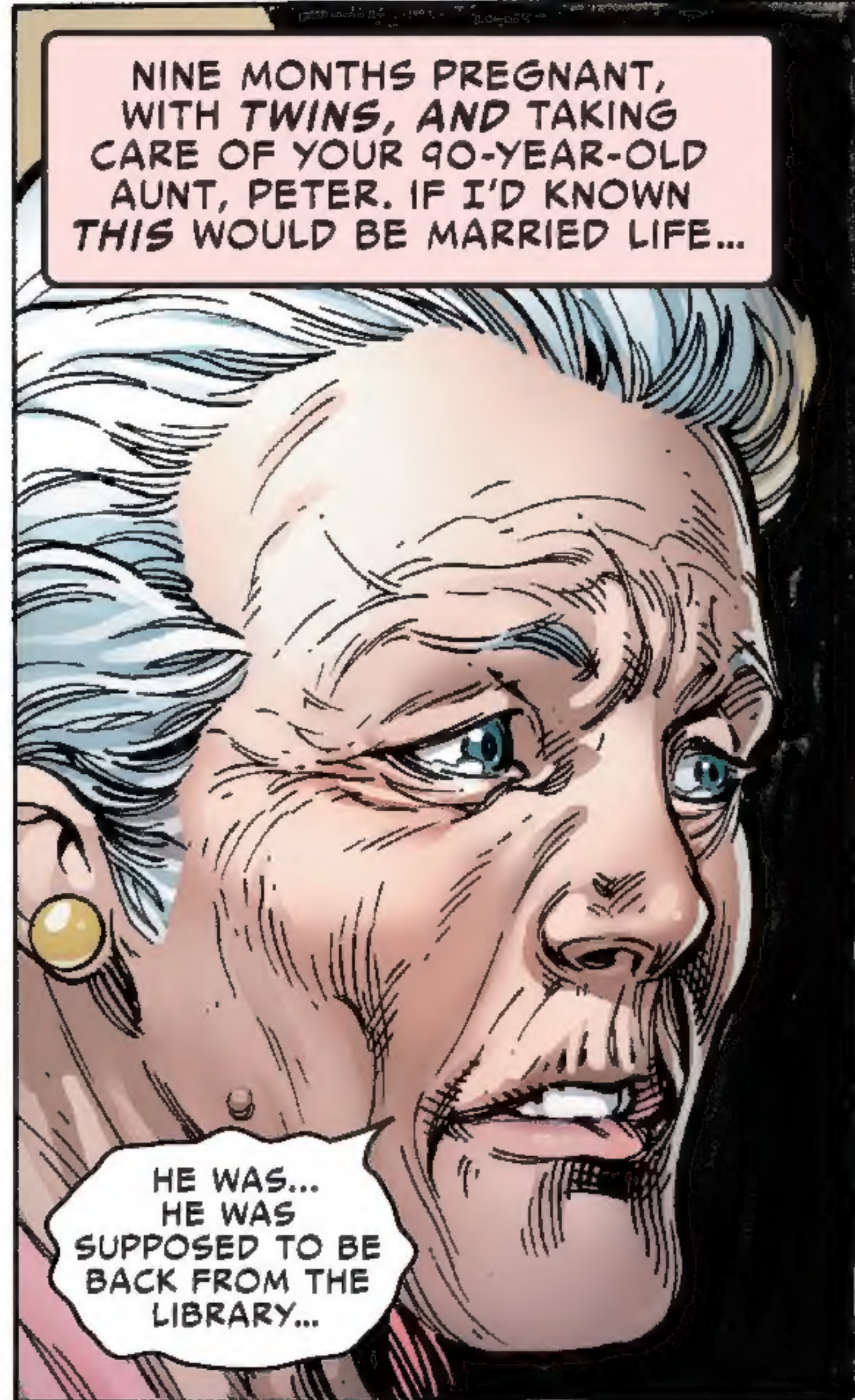
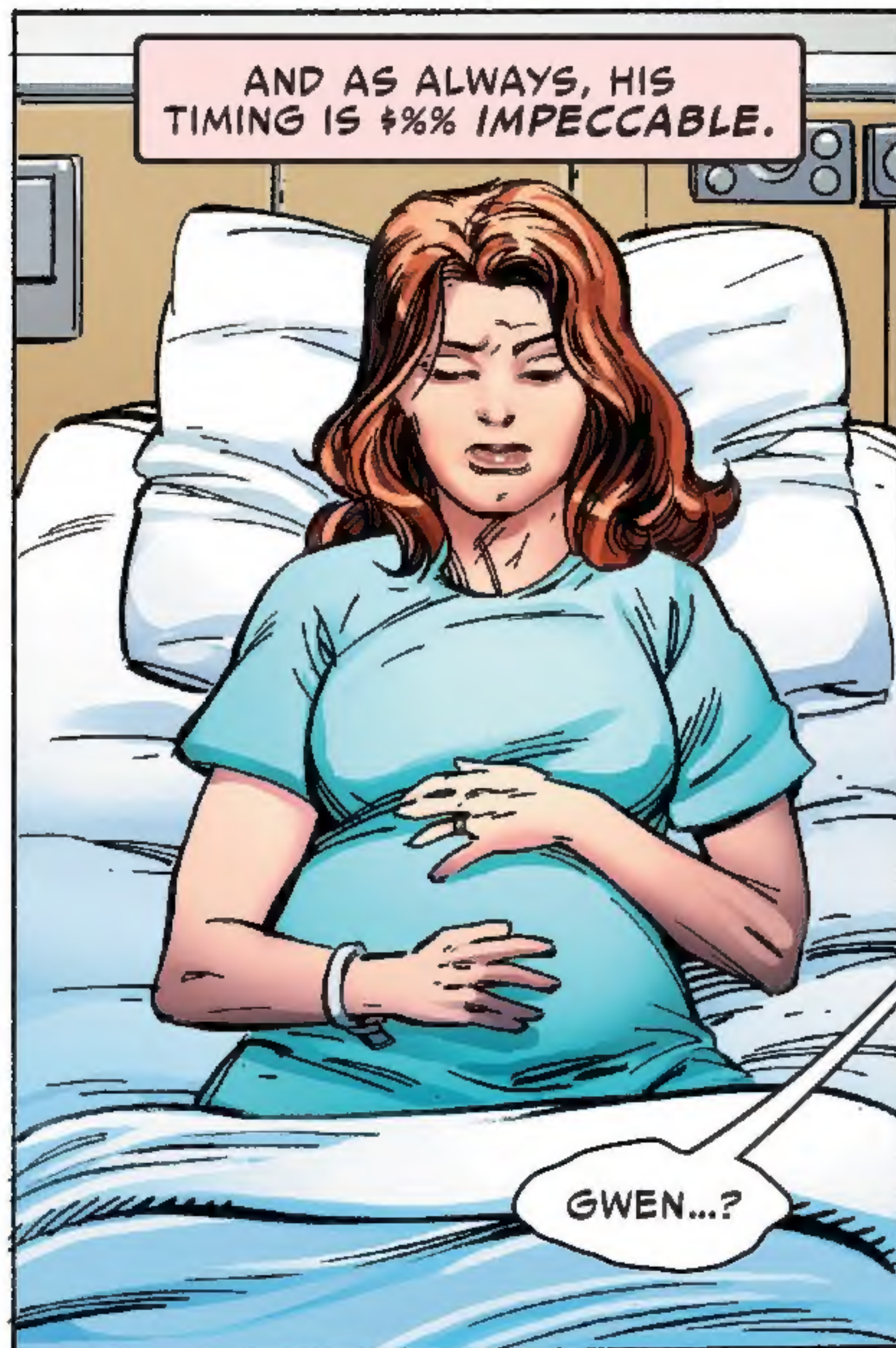
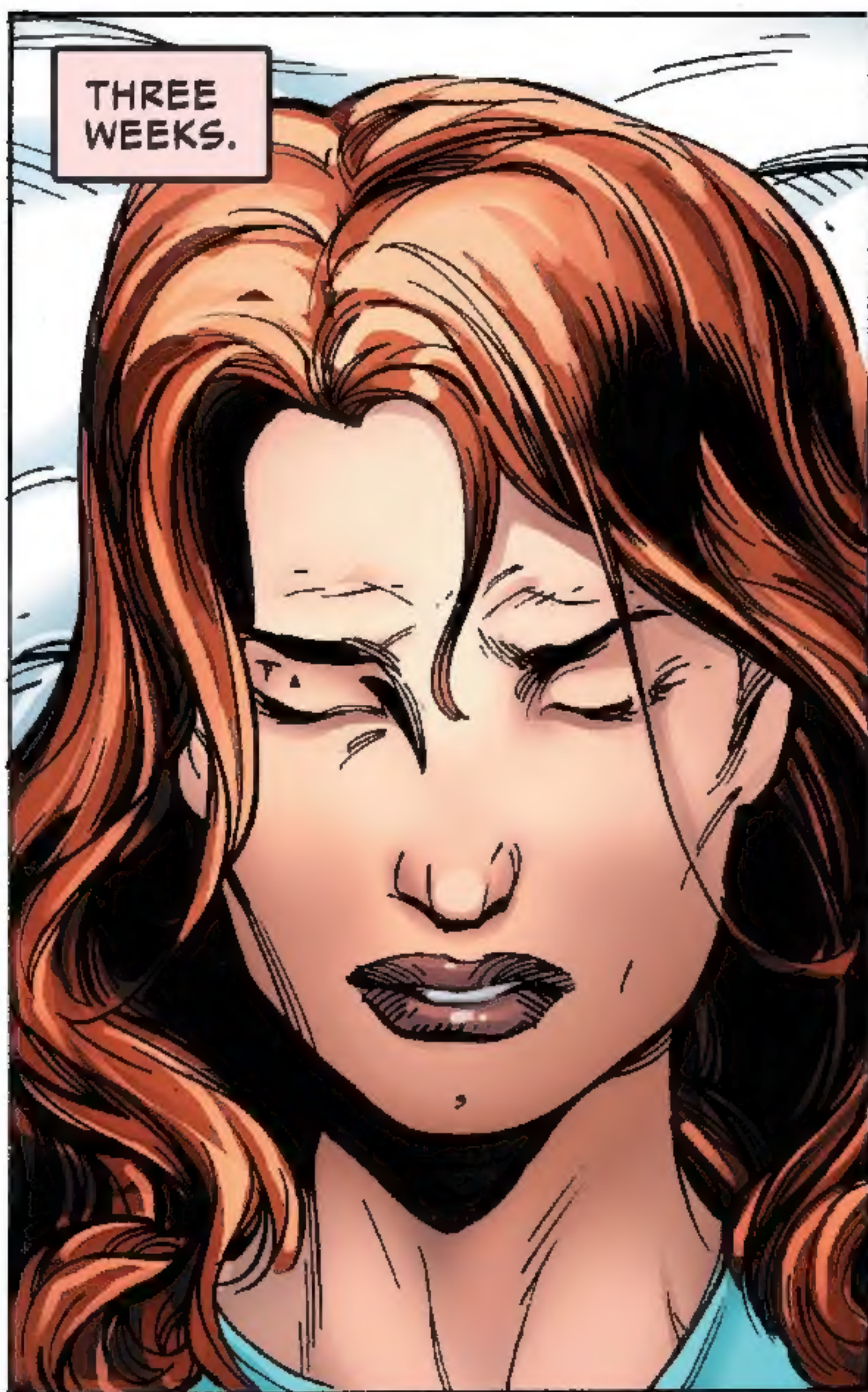
COVER  
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SPIDER-MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO







1984

WAR.

I SPENT MY  
TWENTIES  
AVOIDING  
IT, AND  
HERE I AM.

A MILLION MILES  
FROM HOME, ON  
A PLACE CALLED  
BATTLEWORLD,  
FIGHTING FOR  
THE ENTERTAINMENT  
OF A GOD NAMED  
THE BEYONDER.

IT'S  
INSANITY.

AND THE  
ONLY SURE WAY  
BACK HOME, TO  
MARY JANE,  
IS TO WIN.







SO I WON'T REST UNTIL I DO.

SON?



REED.

PETER...I... WE HAVEN'T REALLY HAD A MOMENT TO...



YOU DON'T NEED TO--

FZT

I DO... I...



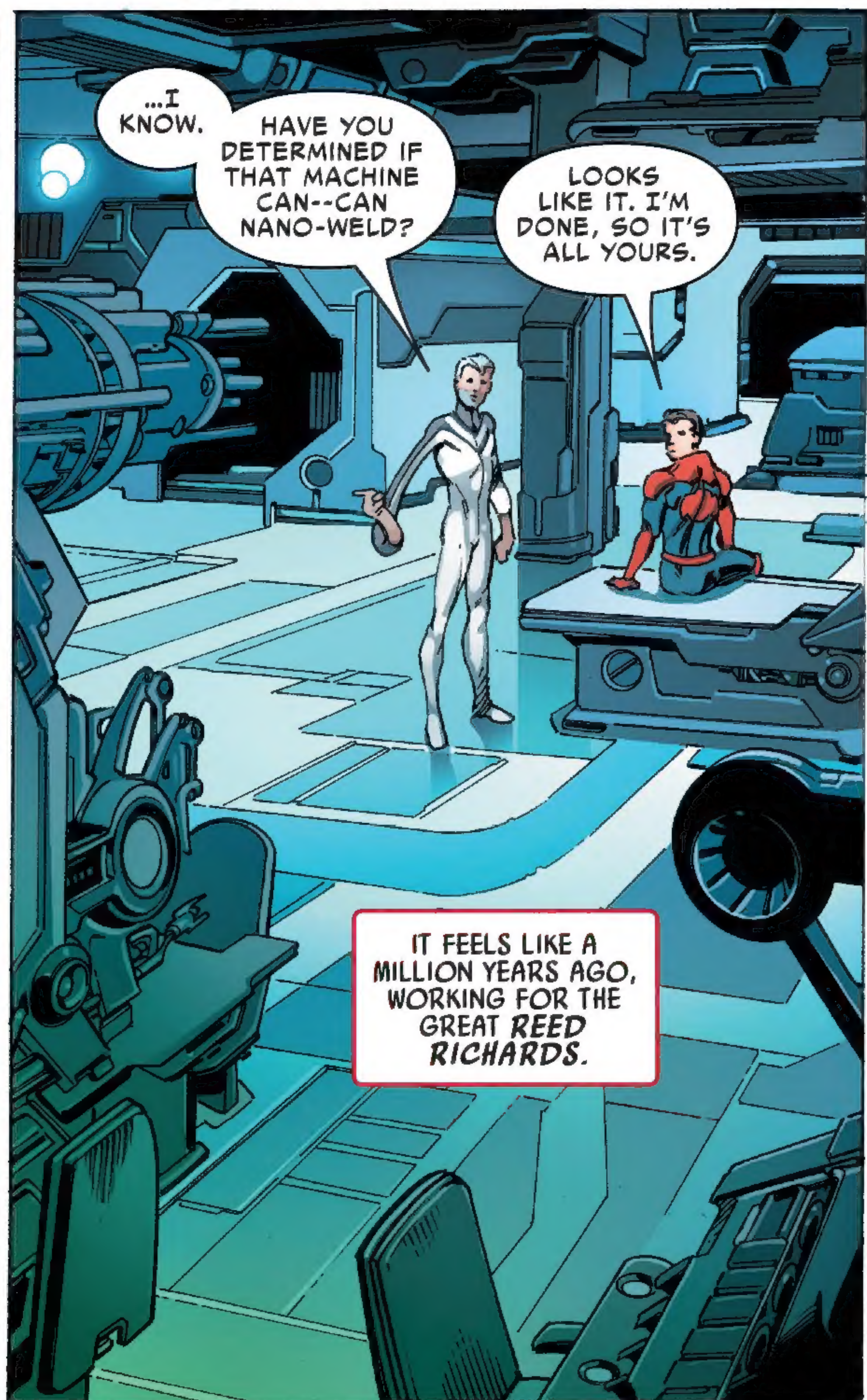
PARKER INDUSTRIES. IT'S-- IT'S FANTASTIC, SON. YOU SHOULD BE PROUD. I'M PROUD.

I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT, IN CASE...

I... THANKS, REED. THAT MEANS A LOT.

I'M SORRY FOR HOW WE--

IT'S OKAY, SON...



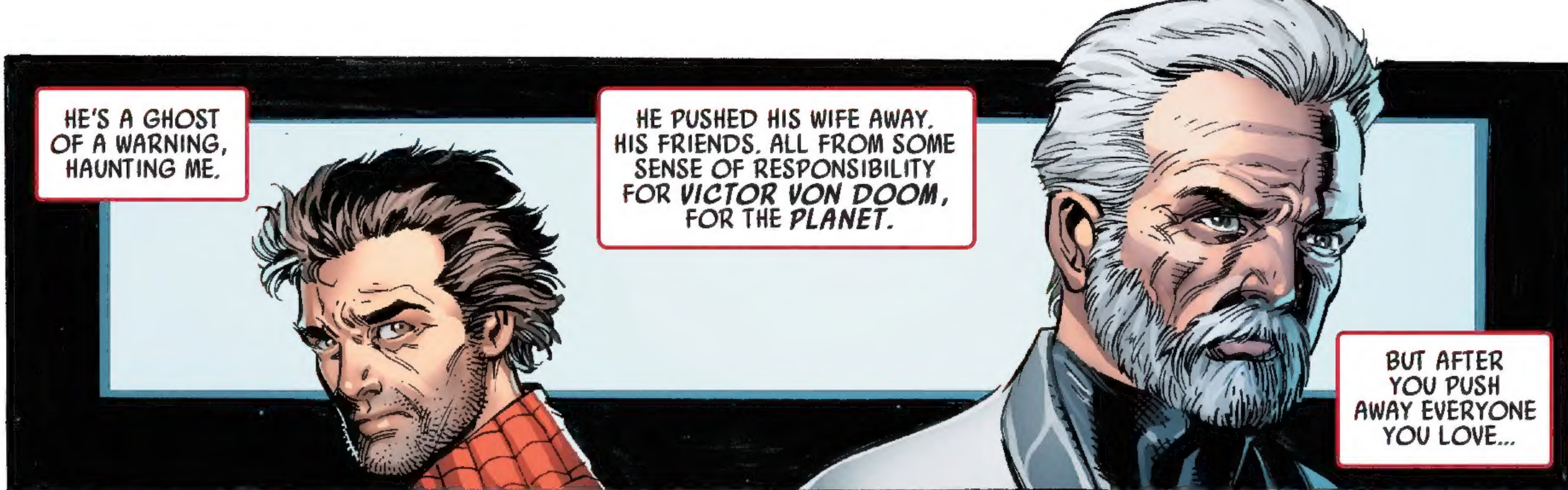
...I KNOW.

HAVE YOU DETERMINED IF THAT MACHINE CAN--CAN NANO-WELD?

LOOKS LIKE IT. I'M DONE, SO IT'S ALL YOURS.

IT FEELS LIKE A MILLION YEARS AGO, WORKING FOR THE GREAT REED RICHARDS.





HE'S A GHOST OF A WARNING, HAUNTING ME.

HE PUSHED HIS WIFE AWAY. HIS FRIENDS. ALL FROM SOME SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR VICTOR VON DOOM, FOR THE PLANET.

BUT AFTER YOU PUSH AWAY EVERYONE YOU LOVE...



...WHAT ARE YOU FIGHTING FOR, BESIDES AN ABSTRACT WORLD?

SPIDER-MAN! THOU ART A MESS OF A MAN!



LOOK, THOR, WE CAN'T ALL HAVE ASGARDIAN TAILORS. SOME OF US STILL SIT AT HOME AT NIGHT WITH NEEDLE AND THREAD AND--

HA! THIS WAS NEITHER STITCHED BY HUMAN NOR GOD! WE DISCOVERED A WONDERFUL DEVICE IN THE ADJOINING ROOM!



IT'S OVER THERE. JUST THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT AND IT MAKES IT FOR YOU.

HUH.  
THANKS.



MAYBE I SHOULD IMAGINE A SUIT THAT CAN FLY ME ACROSS THE UNIVERSE TO MARY JANE...TO OUR BABIES...

I NEED TO GET BACK.



I NEED TO--



MY GOD, WHAT--

AND JUST LIKE THAT...

...EVERYTHING CHANGES.



TWO MORE WEEKS  
GO BY AS GODS FIGHT  
GODS AND I WITNESS...  
UNIMAGINABLE THINGS.

BUT  
WE WIN.

I'M COMING HOME,  
MARY JANE...

...I'M  
COMING HOME.





SOMETHING'S  
OFF.


MAYBE IT'S JUST SWINGING  
THROUGH MY CITY AGAIN IN  
THE NEW *COSTUME*...

...WHICH STILL FEELS *STRANGE*.  
SOME SORT OF *ALIEN REACTIVE*  
*MATERIAL* THAT RESPONDS  
TO MY *THOUGHTS*.

THE CITY IS *QUIET*,  
BUT I'M PROBABLY JUST  
*ON EDGE*. AFTER WEEKS  
FIGHTING A SECRET WAR...

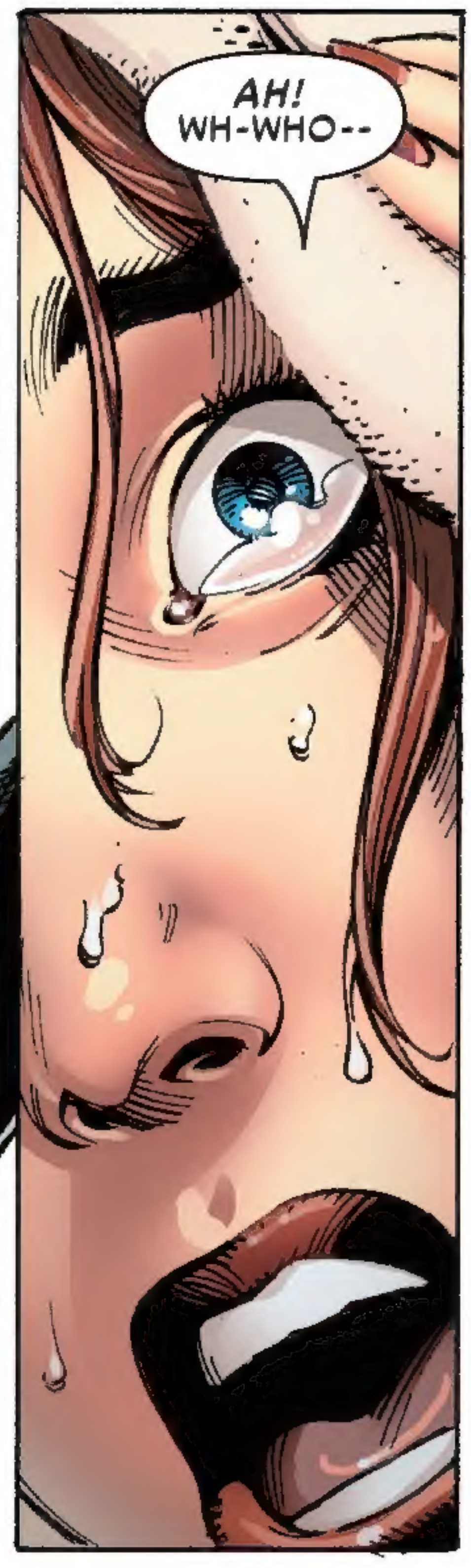
...I JUST *PRAY*  
EVERYTHING IS *OKAY*.

MAY!

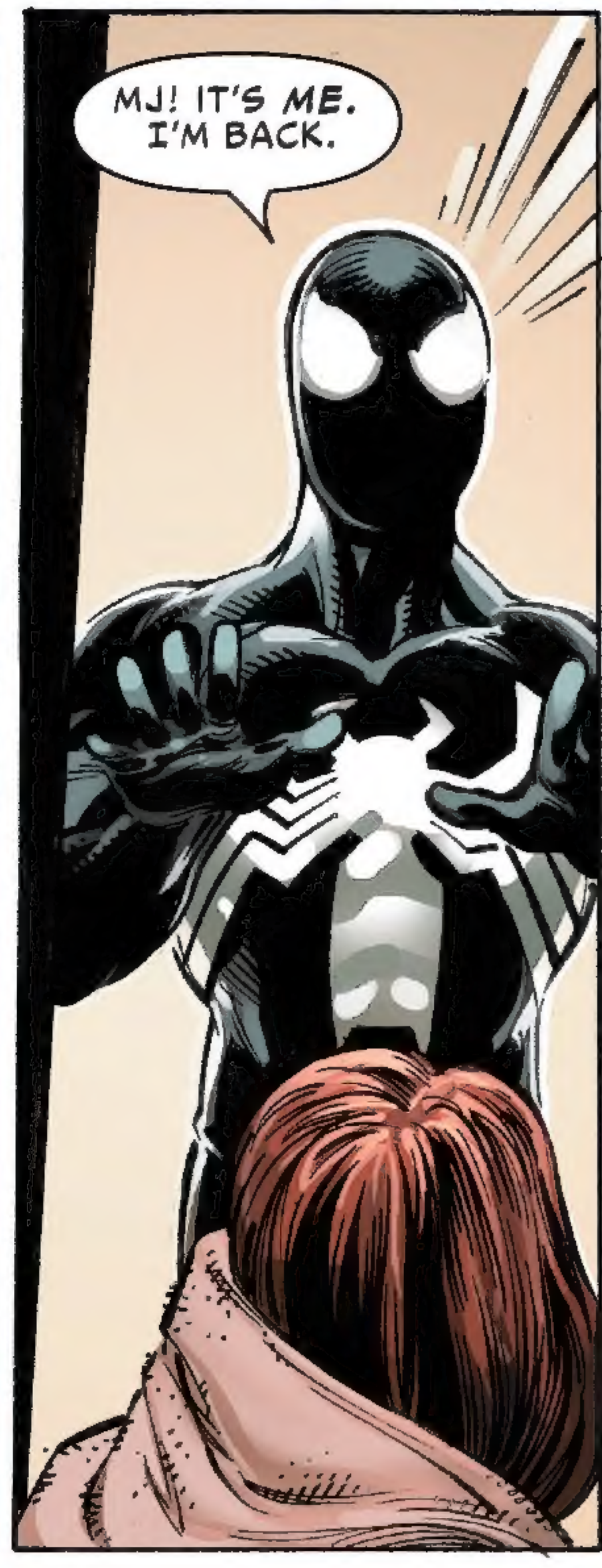


I TOLD YOU  
NOT TO RUN  
THE WATER!  
I ALMOST--

MJ...  
I'M SO  
SORRY--



AH!  
WH-WHO--

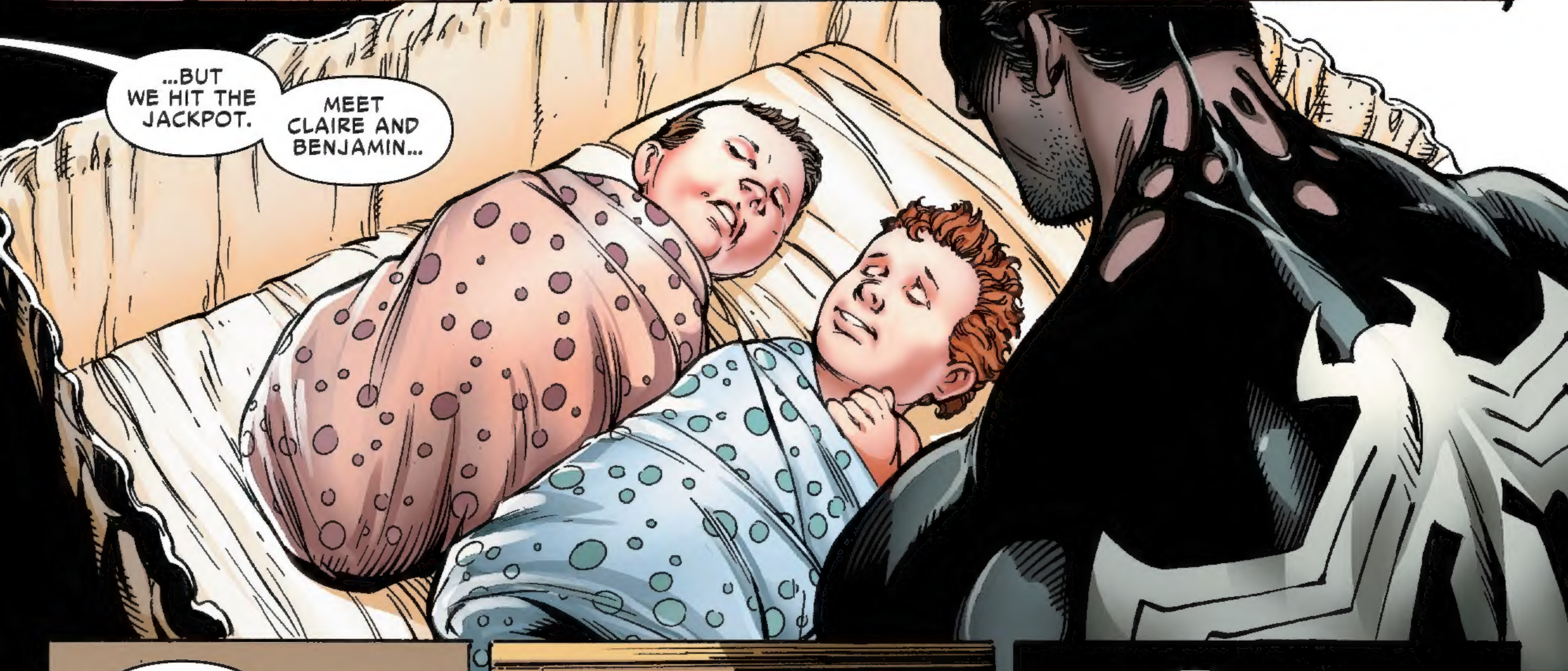


MJ! IT'S ME.  
I'M BACK.



I'M  
BACK.







SHE WAS  
RIGHT. IT  
DID GO  
CRAZY.

FOR YEARS, TENSIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND  
RUSSIA ESCALATED, A COLD WAR, WITH RUSSIA  
FEARING AN EVENTUAL *SUPER HERO INVASION*.  
THE THREAT OF AN ARMS RACE THEY COULDN'T WIN.

SO WHEN  
SUDDENLY THE  
GREATEST AMERICAN  
SUPER HEROES  
DISAPPEARED...

...THEY  
STRUCK.

AMERICA  
STRUCK BACK,  
BUT RUSSIA HAD  
"SUPER-POWERED"  
BEINGS AS WELL,  
NONE OF WHOM  
DISAPPEARED.

ONE WAS  
IVAN KRAGOFF--  
*THE RED GHOST*--  
A SCIENTIST WHO  
DEVELOPED THE  
TECHNOLOGY TO  
RENDER ITEMS  
INTANGIBLE.

LIKE  
INCOMING  
MISSILES.

THE HEROES LEFT BEHIND  
DID THEIR BEST AGAINST  
THE RUSSIAN ATTACK...

...BUT IT WASN'T  
ENOUGH.



THE VISION, AN ANDROID AVENGER WHO CAN CHANGE THE DENSITY OF HIS BODY, ALTERED THE COURSE OF A MISSILE TO AVOID MANHATTAN.

BUT IT STILL LANDED JUST OUTSIDE OF ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA.

VISION BECAME INTANGIBLE UPON IMPACT, SO HE WAS UNHARMED...

...BUT HE WITNESSED IT ALL, FROM THE CENTER OF THE NUCLEAR HURRICANE. PEOPLE, HOMES, NATURE ITSELF...

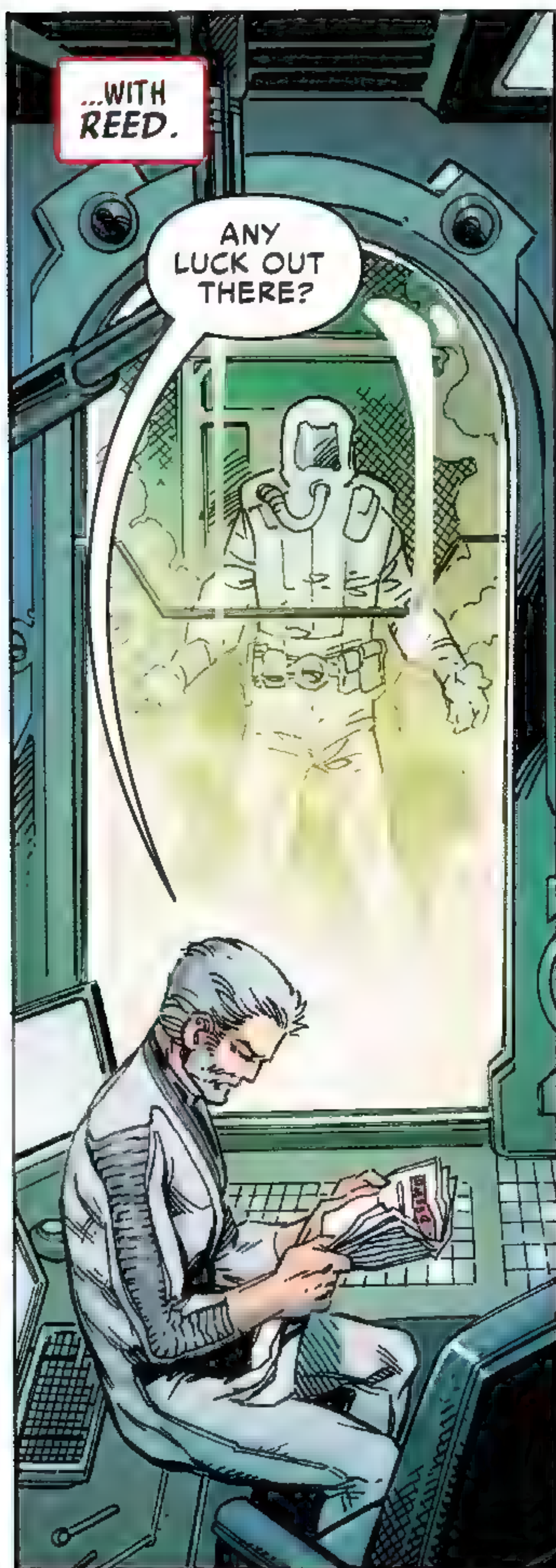
...WIPE AWAY.

HE'S STILL INTANGIBLE. NO ONE KNOWS IF IT WAS CAUSED BY THE EXPLOSION...

...OR THE HORROR.

I'M HERE WITH PARKER INDUSTRIES TO TRY TO CLEAN UP THE RADIATION. VARIOUS HEROES IMMEDIATELY WENT TO RUSSIA, BUT I KNOW MY SKILLS ARE BETTER USED HERE...





...WITH REED.

ANY LUCK OUT THERE?



HE'S STILL NON-RESPONSIVE.

BUT THE RADIO-SPONGES ARE ALMOST ALL SET UP. HOPEFULLY WE CAN ABSORB ENOUGH RADIATION TO SAVE THE AREA...

LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE SOME PROBLEMS AT HOME...

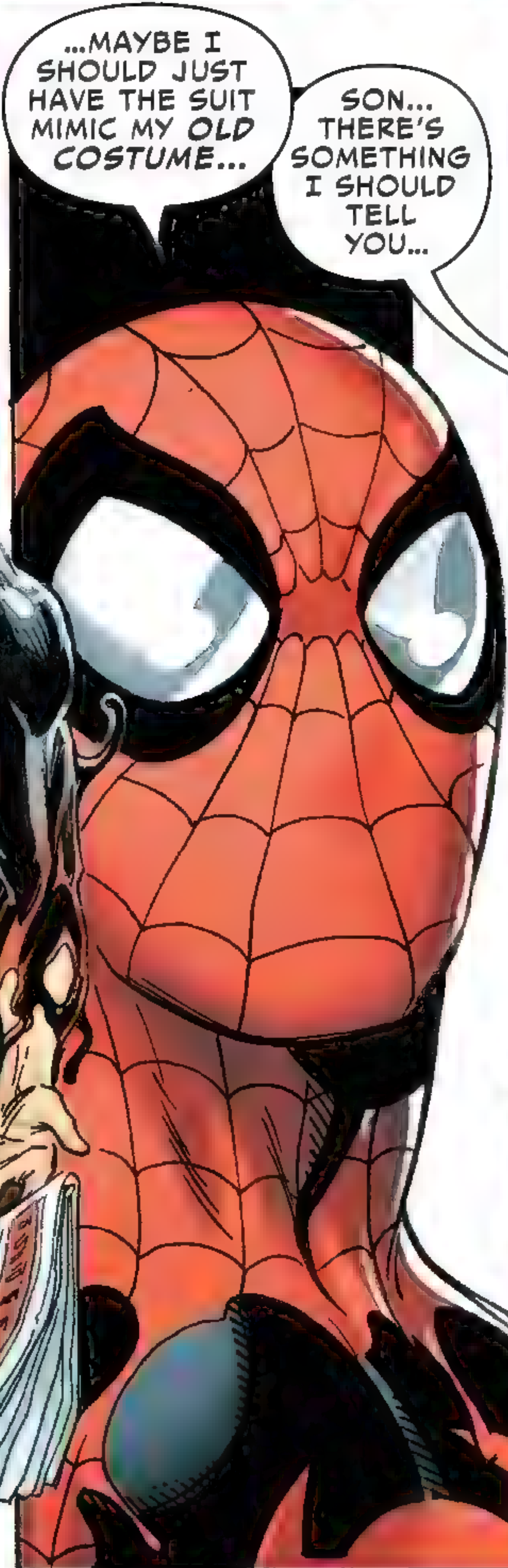


...I THINK THAT BLACK SUIT IS BRINGING OUT THE WORST IN YOUR "FANS"...

DAILY ST  
SPIDER-MAN: MURDERER



UNBELIEVABLE. I NEVER USED TO HAVE CRAZY COPYCATS...



...MAYBE I SHOULD JUST HAVE THE SUIT MIMIC MY OLD COSTUME...

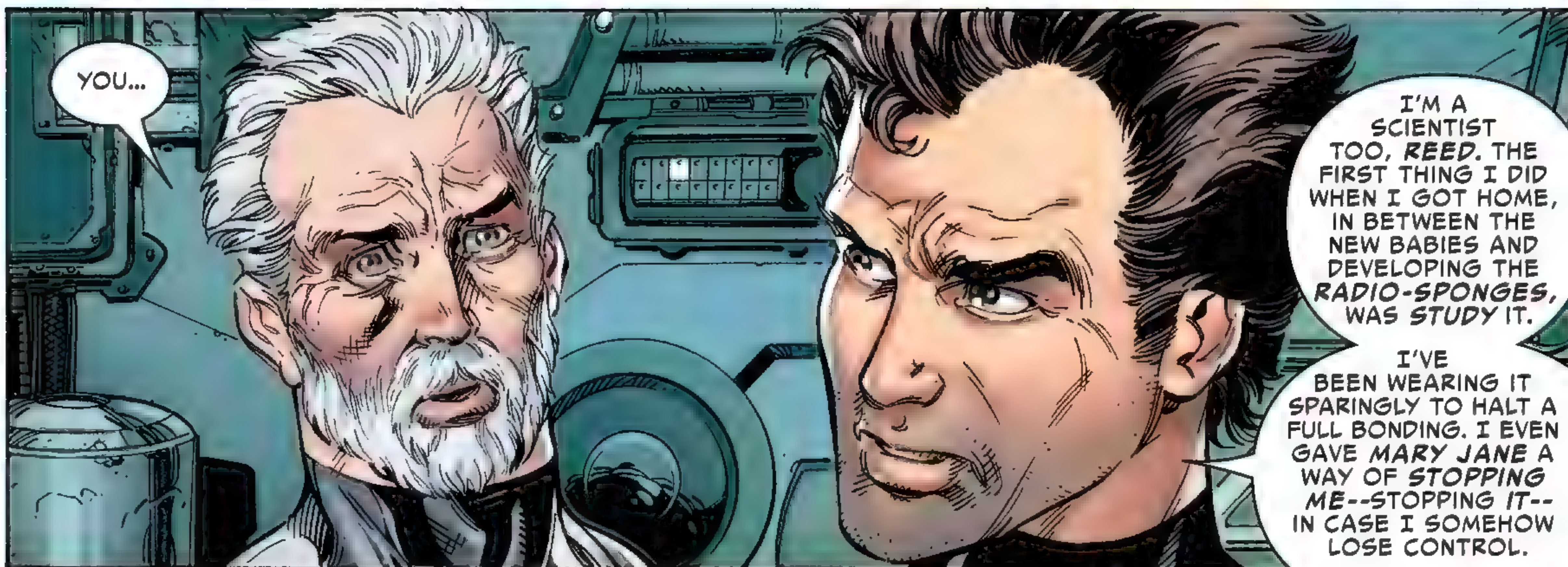
SON... THERE'S SOMETHING I SHOULD TELL YOU...



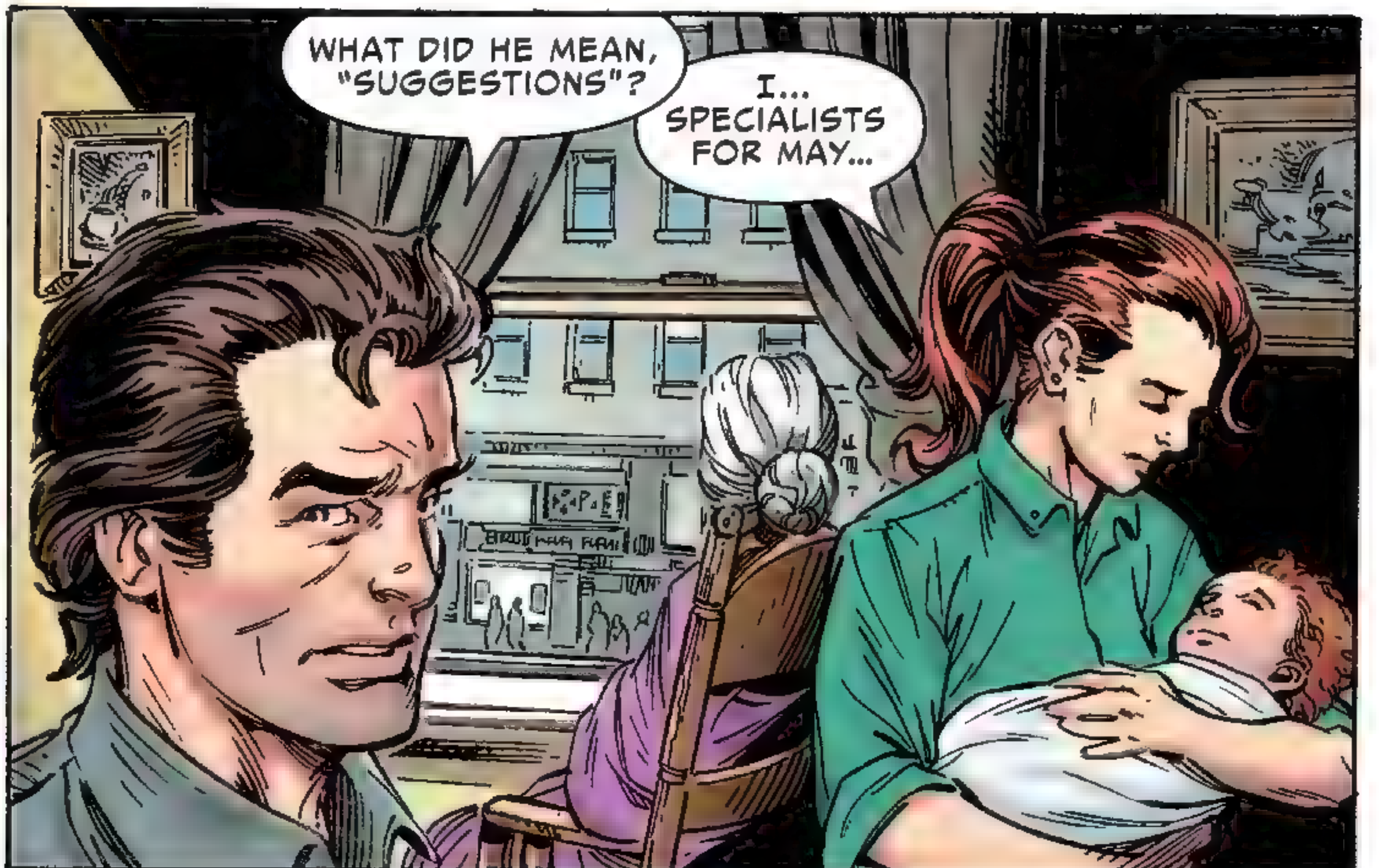
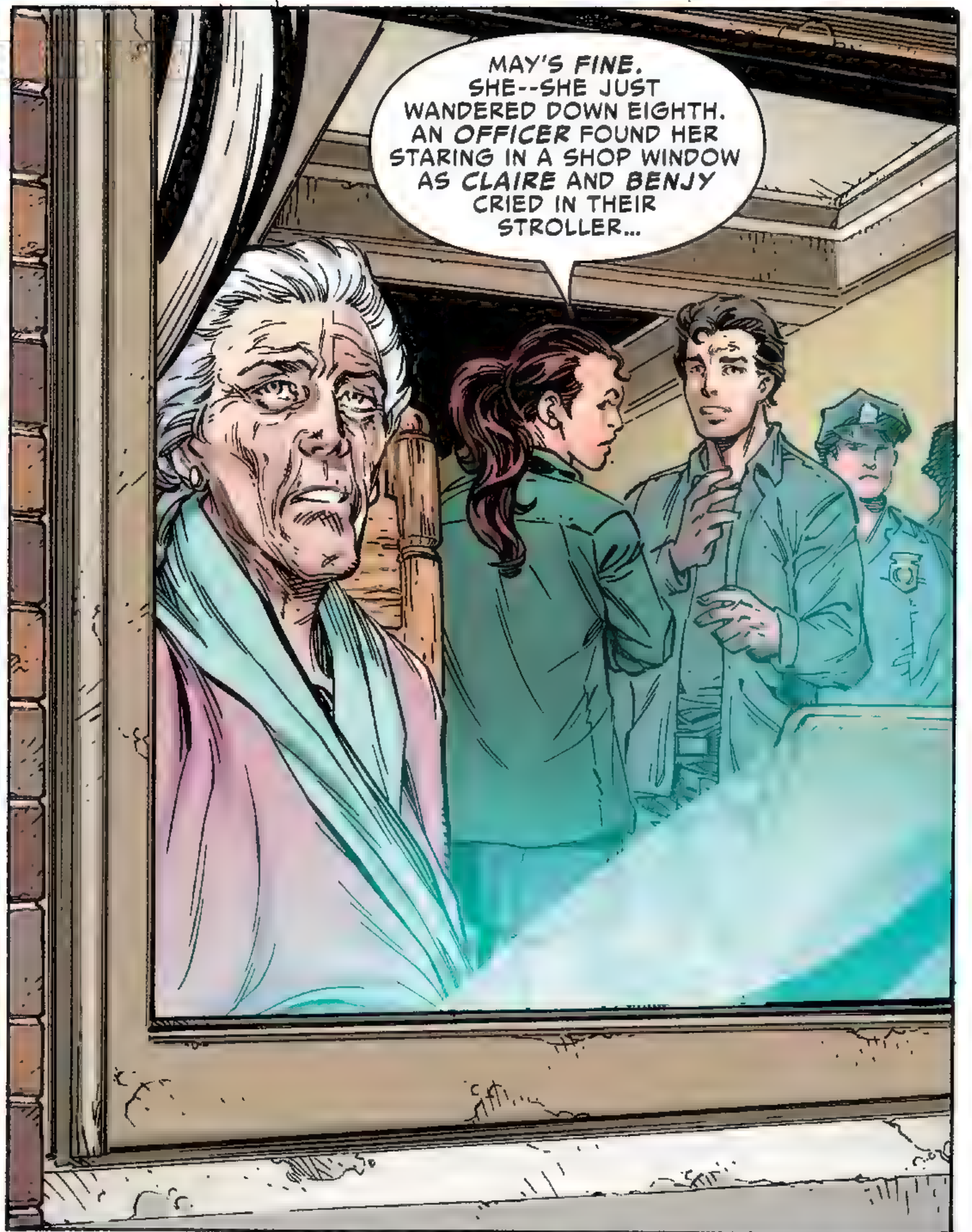
...SINCE WE'VE BEEN...WORKING TOGETHER AGAIN...I'VE BEEN STUDYING YOUR NEW COSTUME... SCANNING IT...

IT WOULD APPEAR...

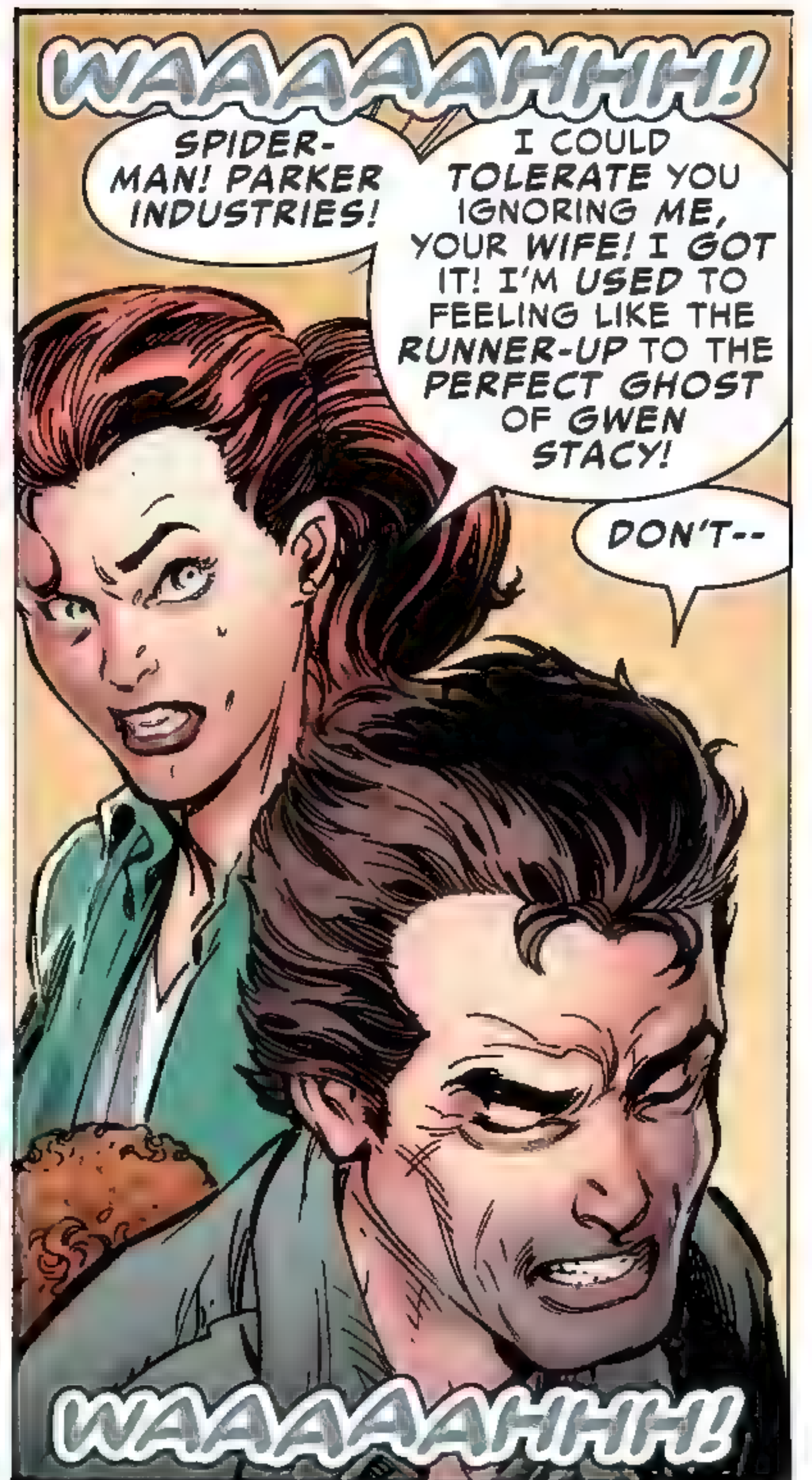




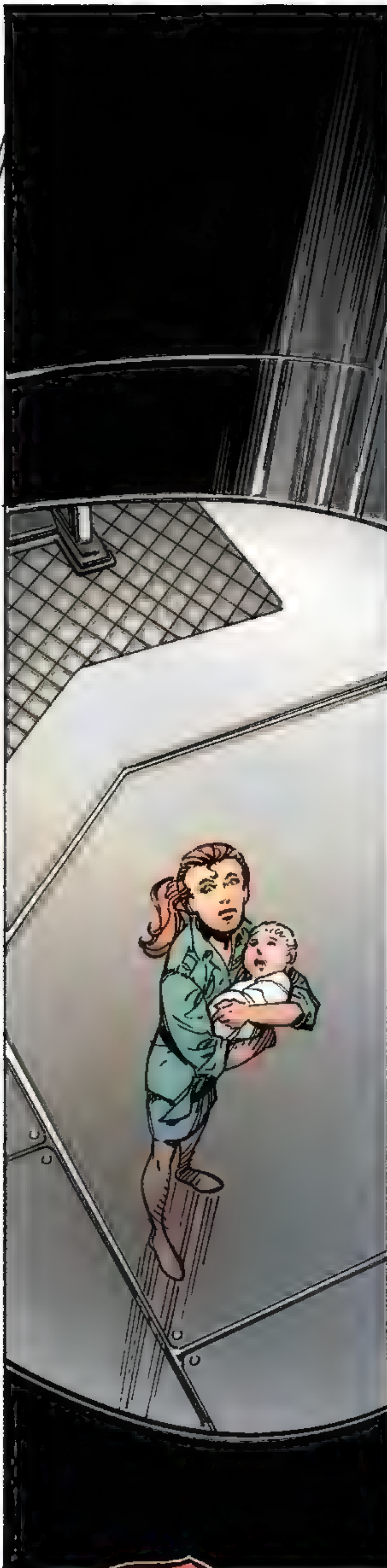












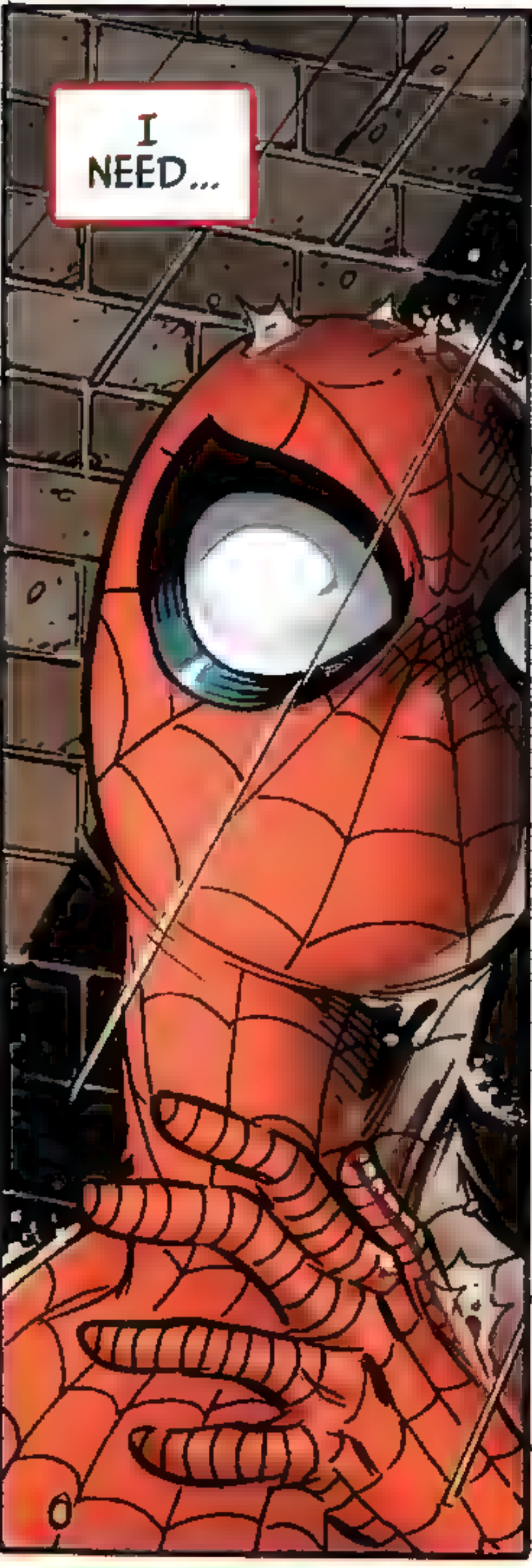




I SWORE AFTER I LET  
UNCLE BEN DIE THAT I WOULD  
NEVER AGAIN TURN MY BACK ON  
THINGS THAT WERE **WRONG**.



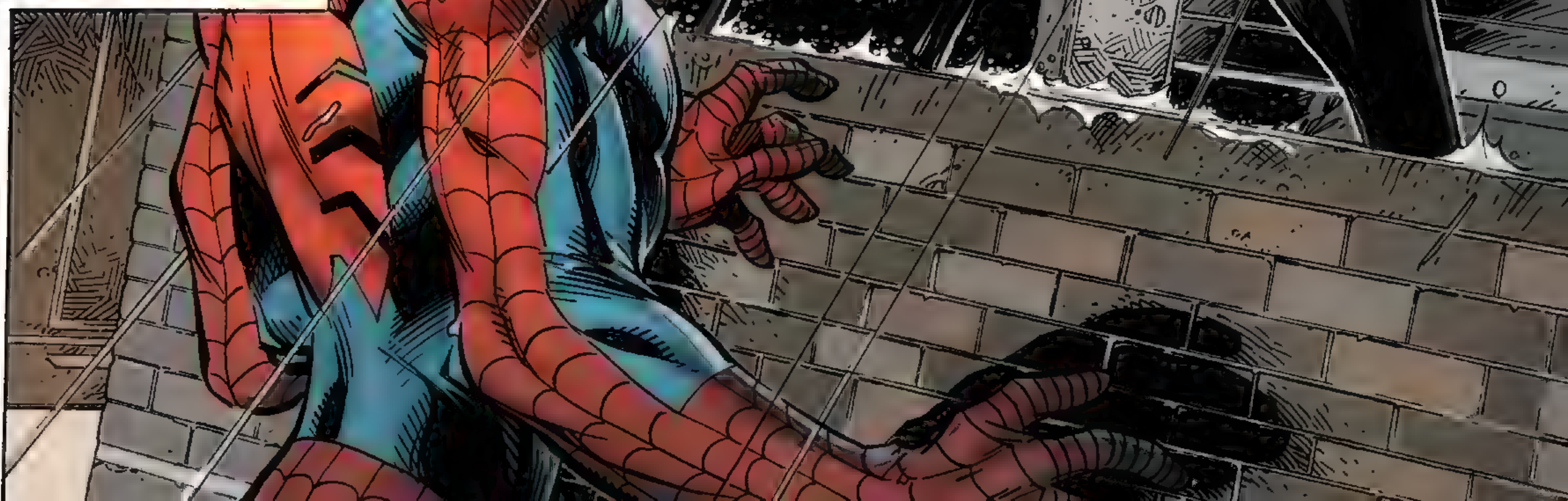
BUT THERE'S...  
THERE'S **SO MUCH**  
**WRONG**. HOW CAN  
I KNOW WHAT TO  
LET **SLIDE**, WHAT TO  
CONCENTRATE ON...



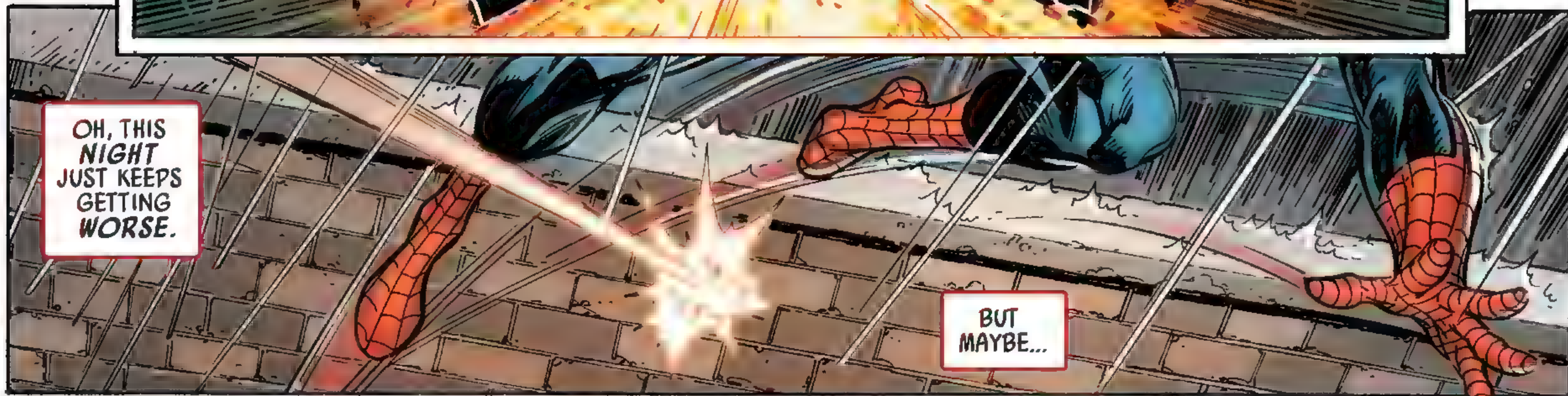
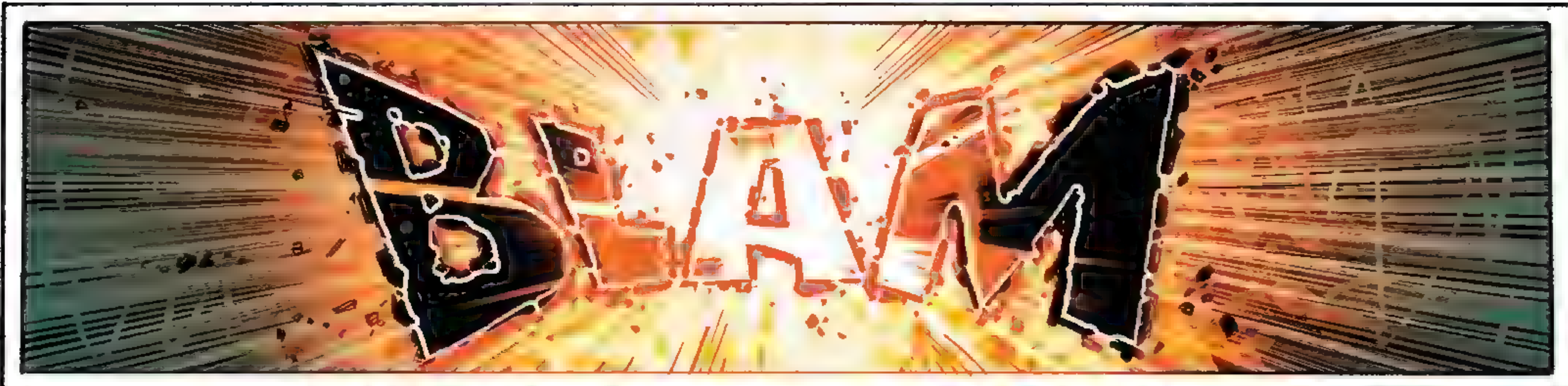
I  
NEED...



...**FOCUS**.







OH, THIS  
NIGHT  
JUST KEEPS  
GETTING  
WORSE.

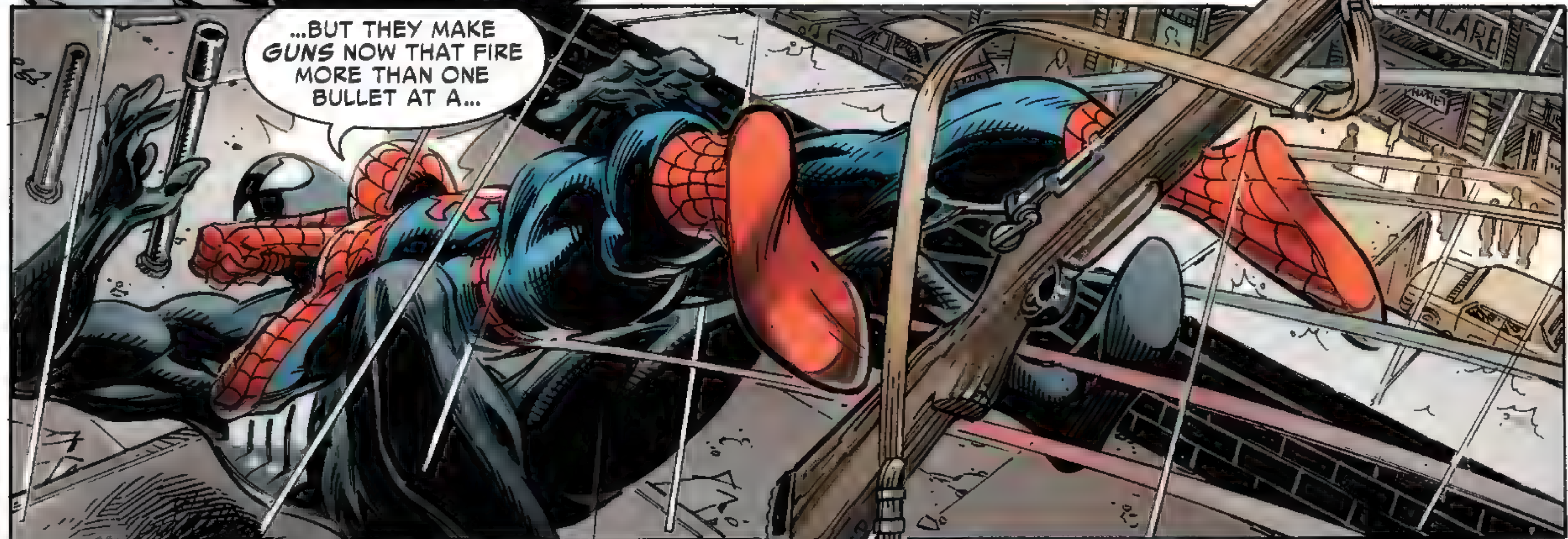
BUT  
MAYBE...



...TAKING DOWN A GUY  
PRETENDING TO BE ME--  
WHO MURDERS CRIMINALS--  
IS JUST WHAT THE  
DOCTOR ORDERED...

WHOA,  
PAL!

I DON'T  
MEAN TO TELL  
YOU HOW TO  
DO YOUR  
JOB...



...BUT THEY MAKE  
GUNS NOW THAT FIRE  
MORE THAN ONE  
BULLET AT A...

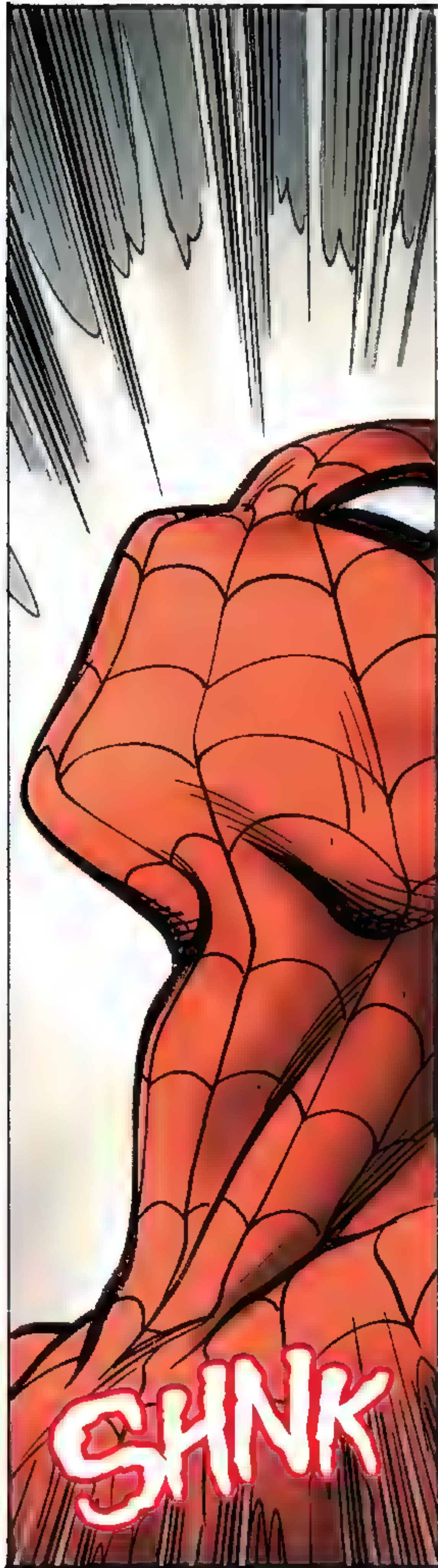


...TIME...





...KRAVEN?  
WHAT ARE  
YOU--



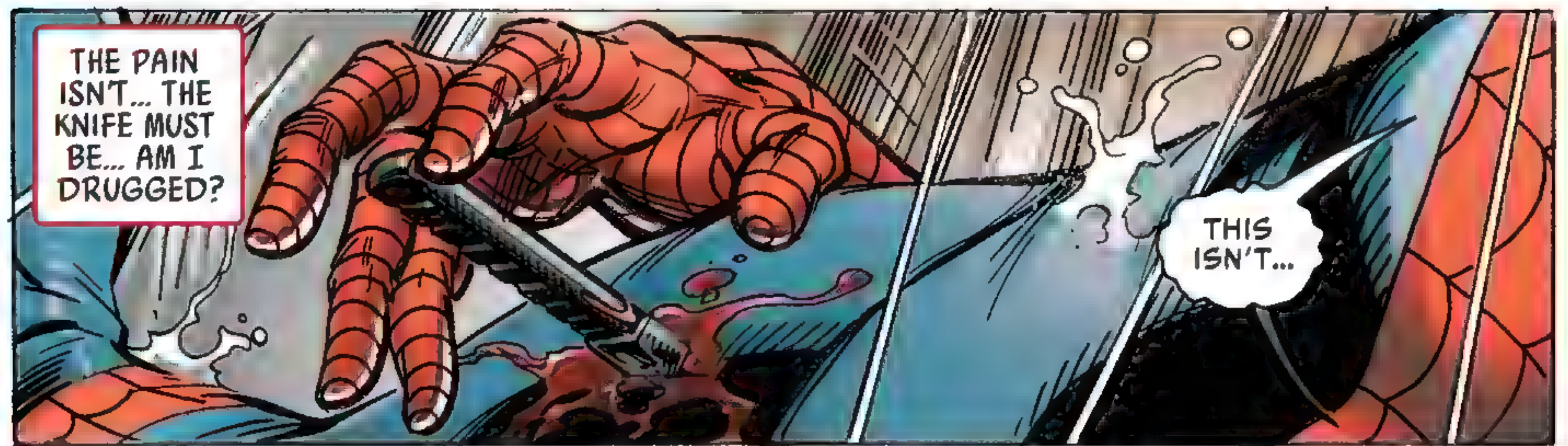
SHINK



NO, NO, NO.  
THIS CAN'T BE--

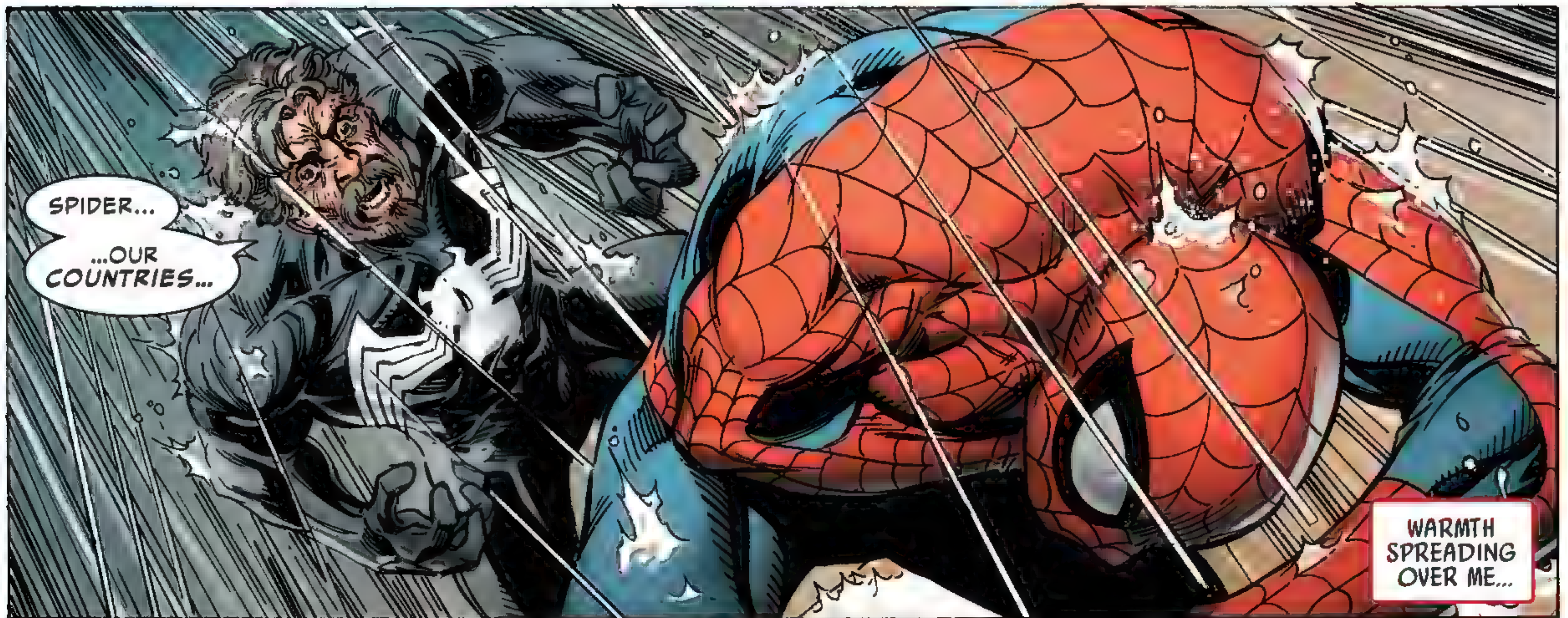
IT'S KRAVEN! JUST--JUST  
A DELUDED HUNTER.  
HE'S NOT EVEN ONE OF MY  
BAD GUYS WITH POWERS!  
HE'S A--A JOKE!

WH-  
WHY...



THE PAIN  
ISN'T... THE  
KNIFE MUST  
BE... AM I  
DRUGGED?

THIS  
ISN'T...



SPIDER...  
...OUR  
COUNTRIES...

WARMTH  
SPREADING  
OVER ME...





...THEY ARE AT WAR NOW. MOTHER RUSSIA HAS FINALLY DONE IT.

BUT I HAVE LIVED HERE A LONG TIME, DA?

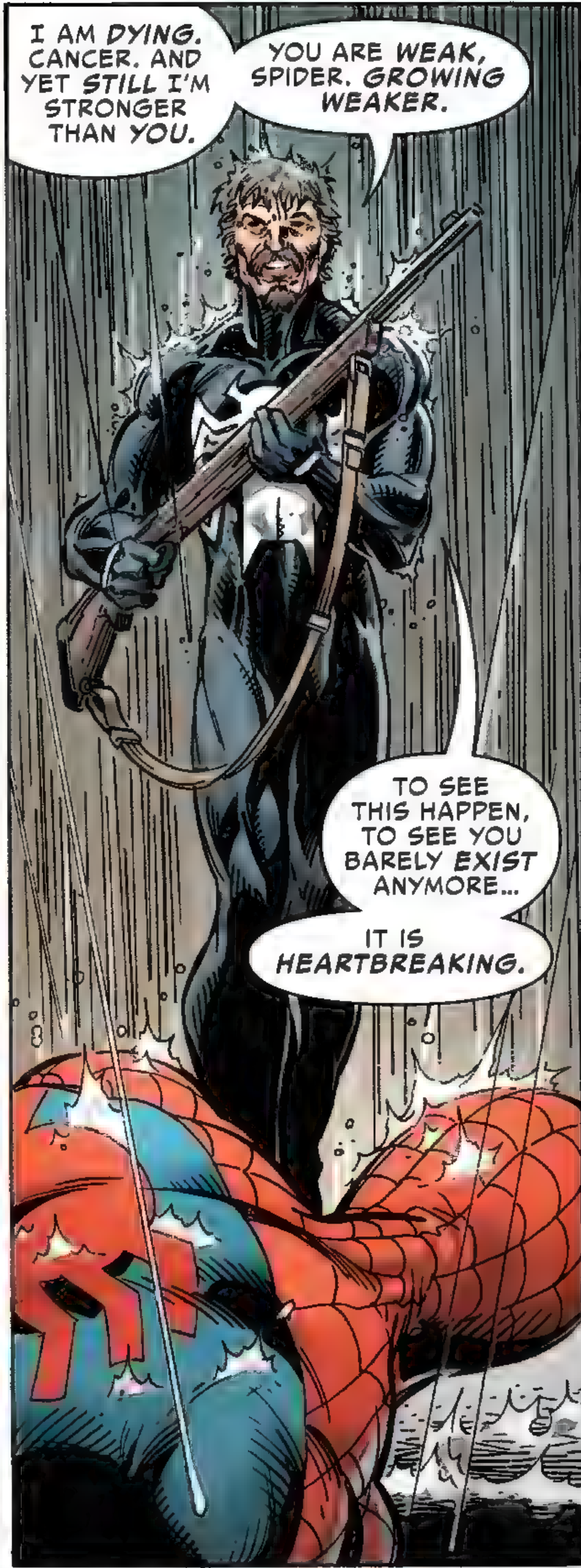
TUSSLING WITH YOU. HUNTING... I HAVE HUNTED ALL THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS.



A LONG TIME IN AMERICA. IT IS MY HOME.

AND IT IS BEREFT OF A TRUE HERO.

YOU DON'T... DON'T HAVE TO...



I AM DYING. CANCER. AND YET STILL I'M STRONGER THAN YOU.

YOU ARE WEAK, SPIDER. GROWING WEAKER.

TO SEE THIS HAPPEN, TO SEE YOU BARELY EXIST ANYMORE...

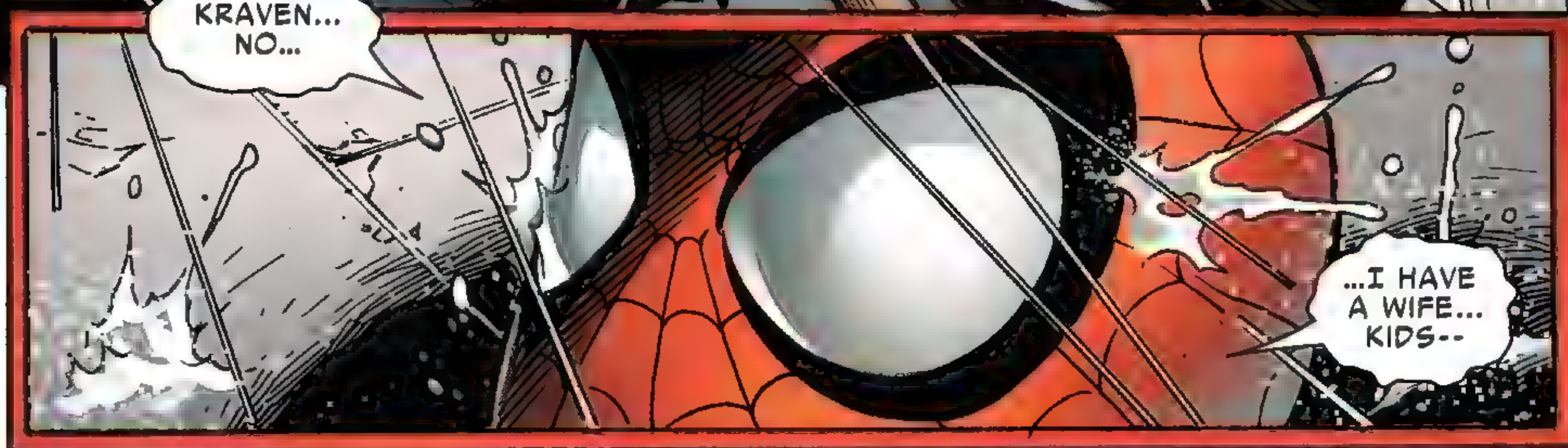
IT IS HEARTBREAKING.



YOU WERE ONCE BEAUTIFUL. YOU WERE ONCE A WARRIOR.

AND SO YOU DESERVE A WARRIOR'S EXIT.

KRAVEN... NO...



...I HAVE A WIFE... KIDS--



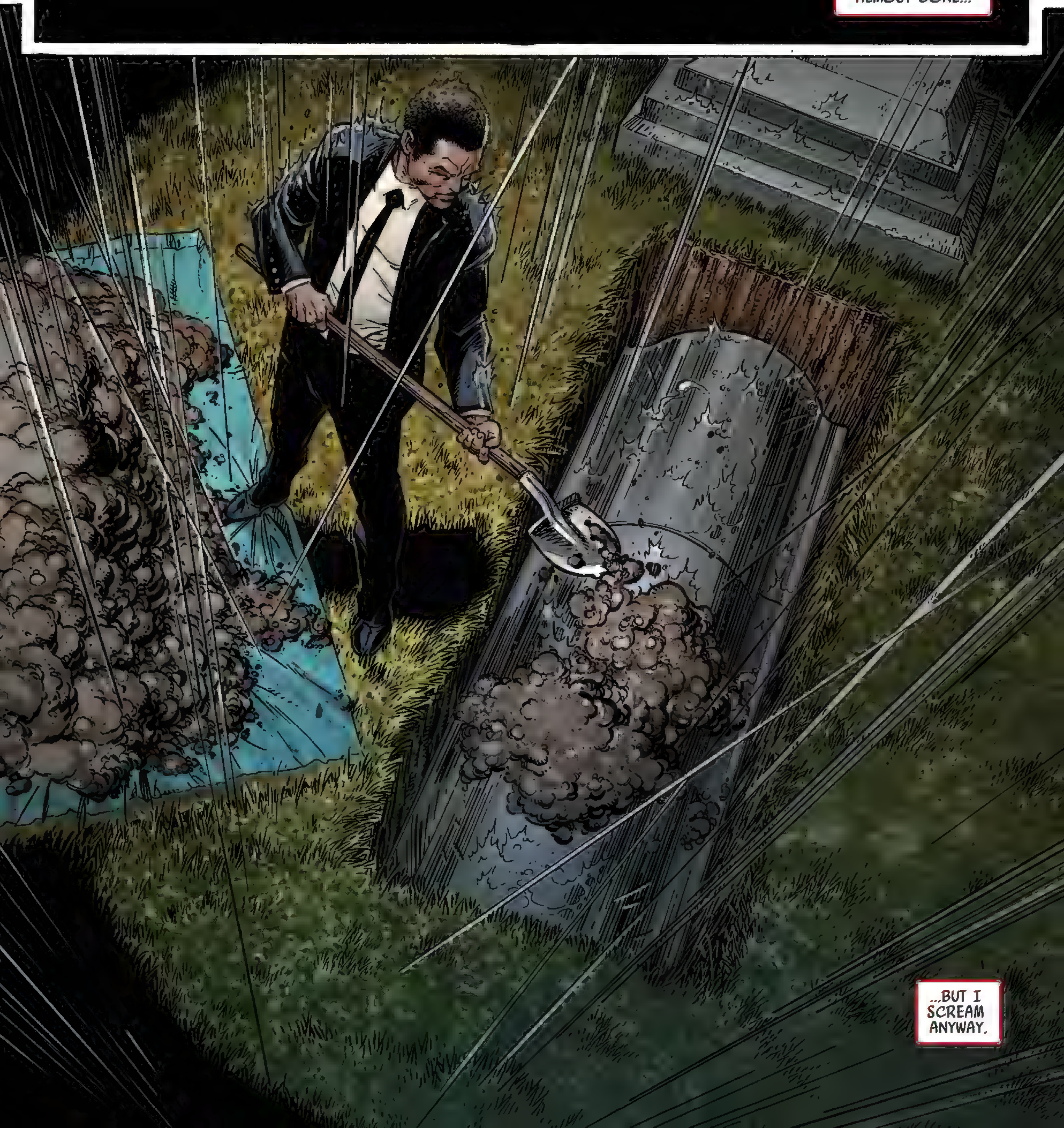


I'M COLD. WEAK.  
THERE'S PAIN, SO  
I MUST BE ALIVE.

I'M IN THE DARKEST  
PLACE I'VE EVER BEEN.  
LYING IN...A BED?

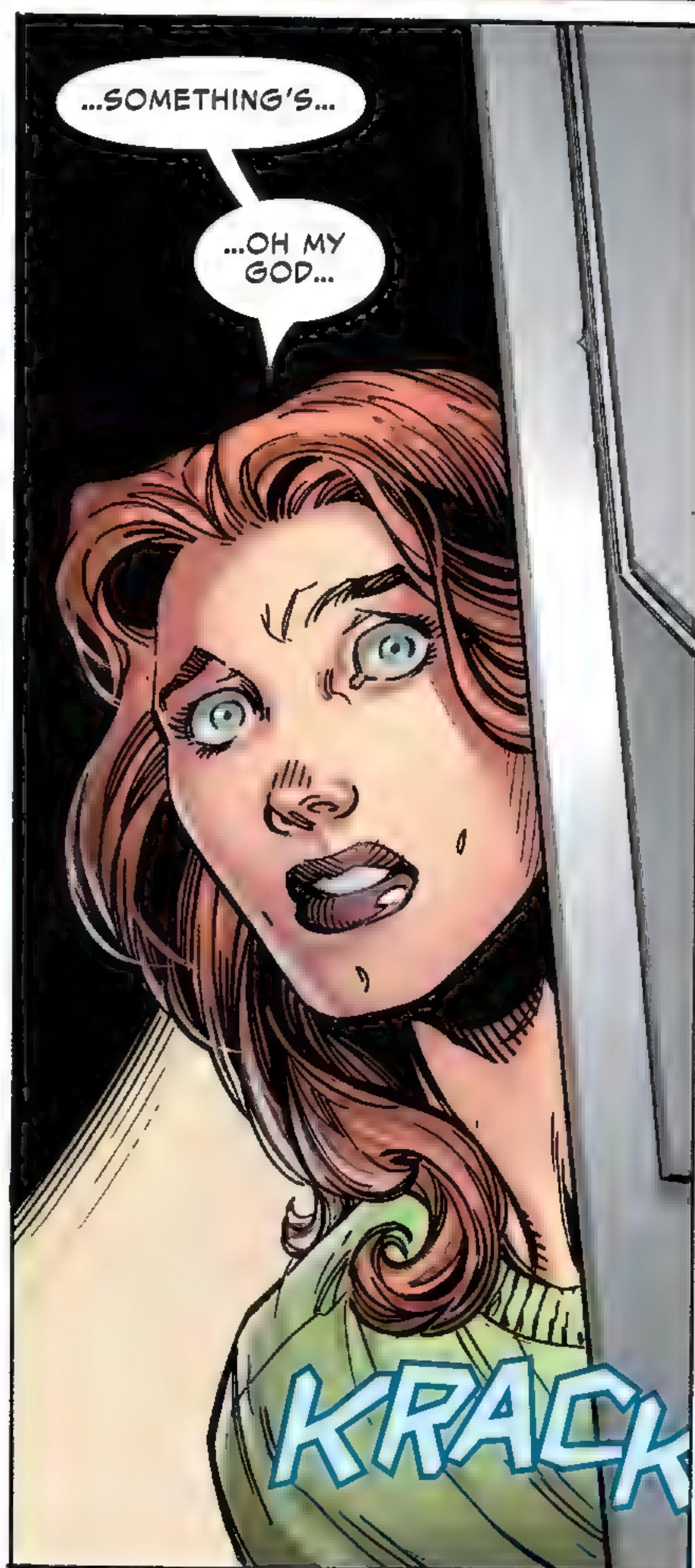
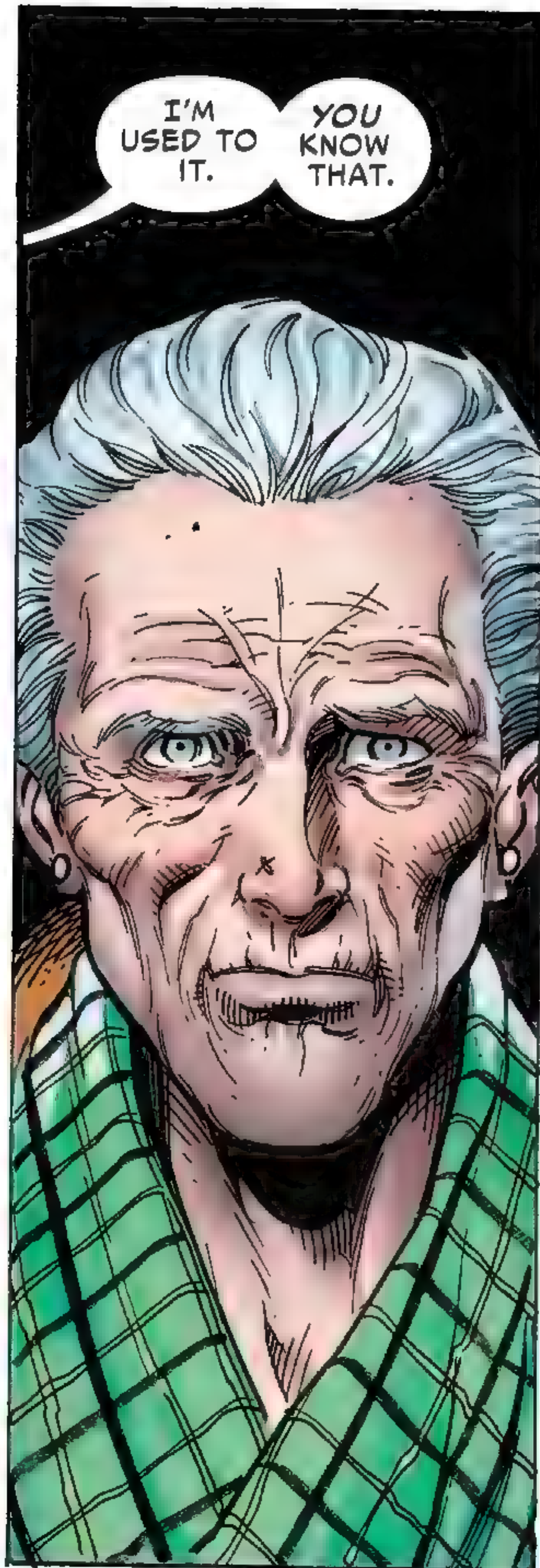
I MAKE THE MISTAKE  
OF TRYING TO REACH  
UP...AND MY KNUCKLES  
ABRUPTLY HIT WOOD.

AND MY LUNGS  
FEEL THE THIN AIR,  
ALMOST GONE...

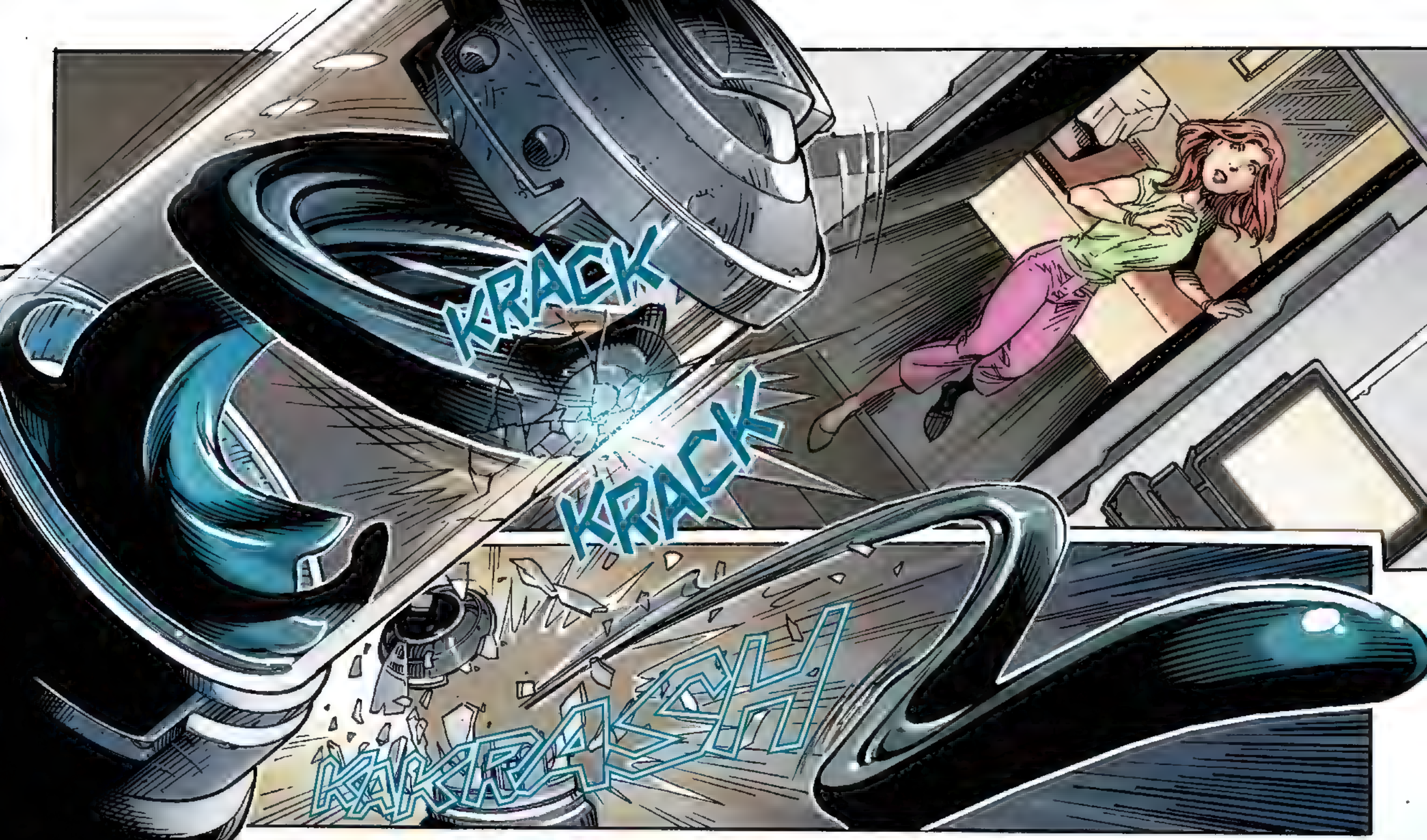


...BUT I  
SCREAM  
ANYWAY.

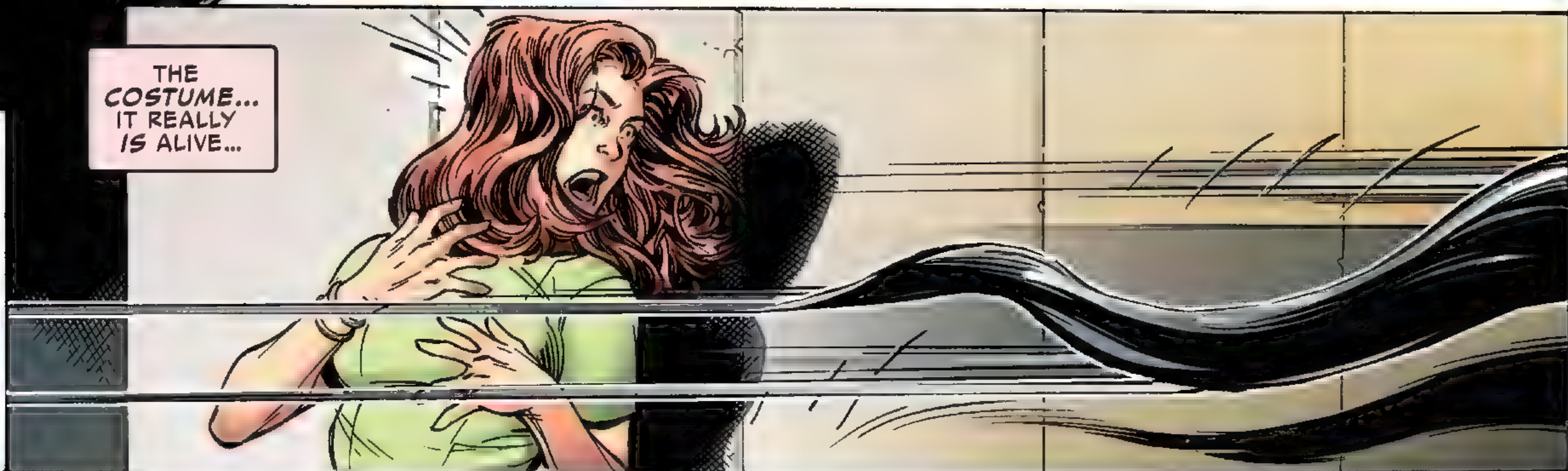








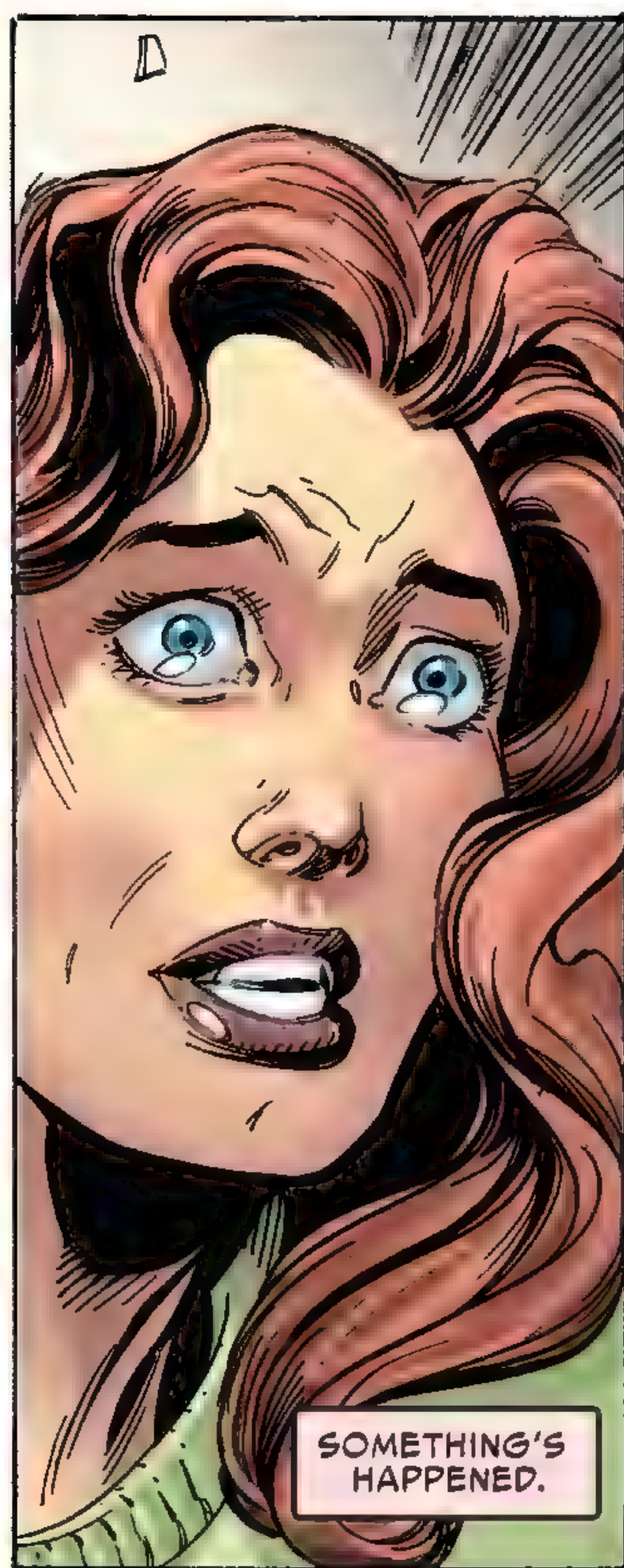
THE  
COSTUME...  
IT REALLY  
IS ALIVE...



...AND  
DESPERATE...

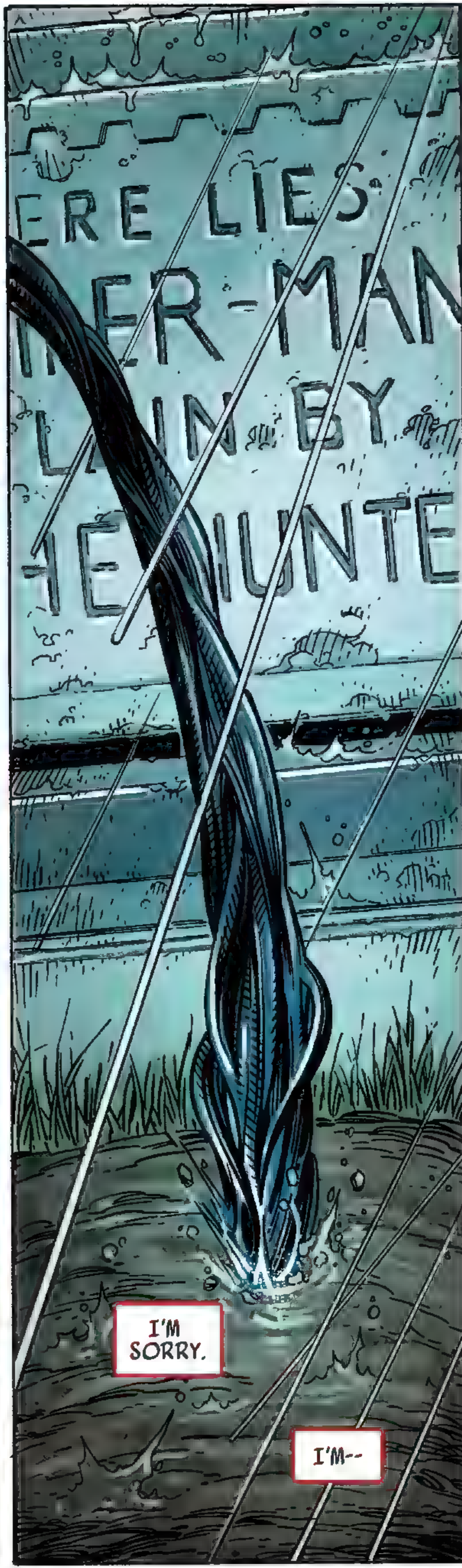
...TO FIND...  
PETER?

OH  
GOD...



SOMETHING'S  
HAPPENED.

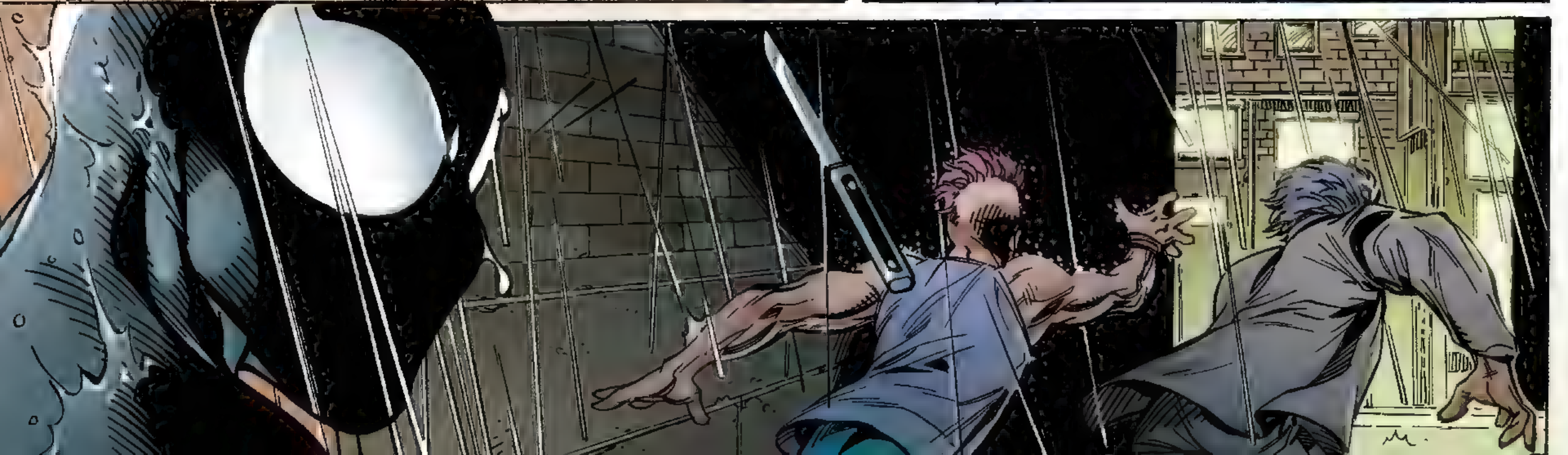








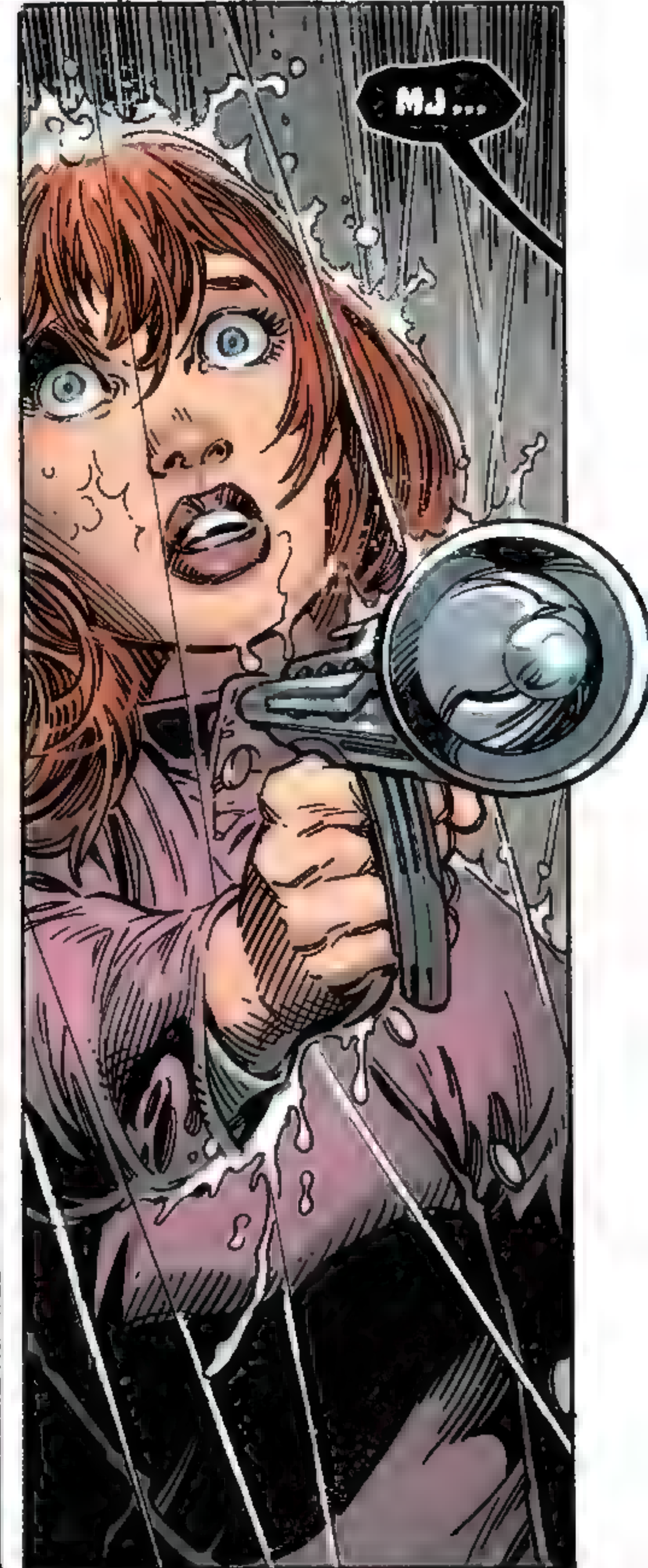
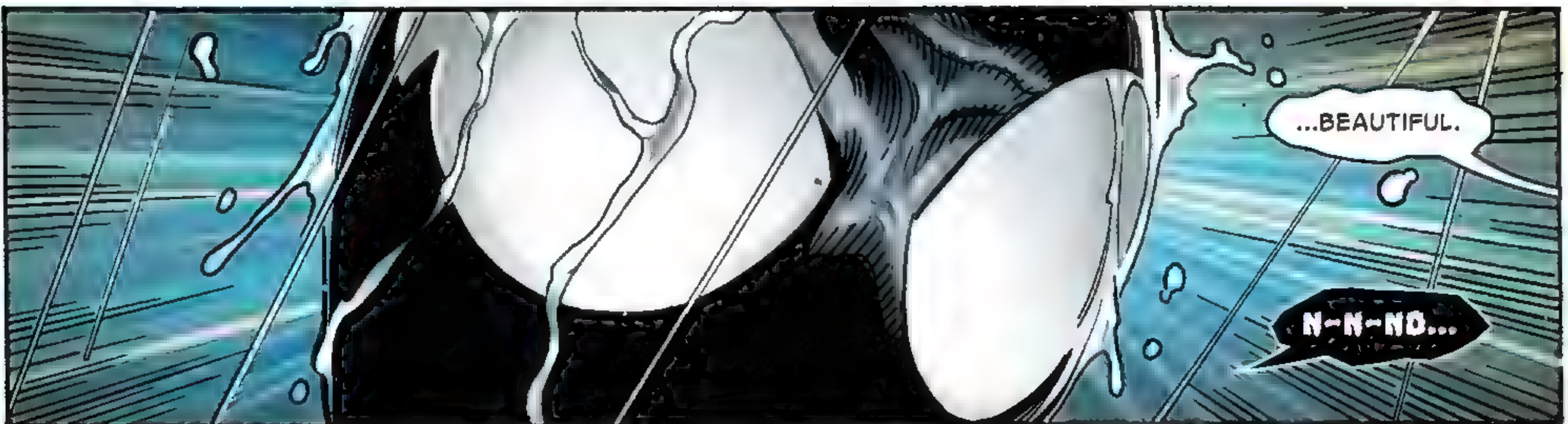
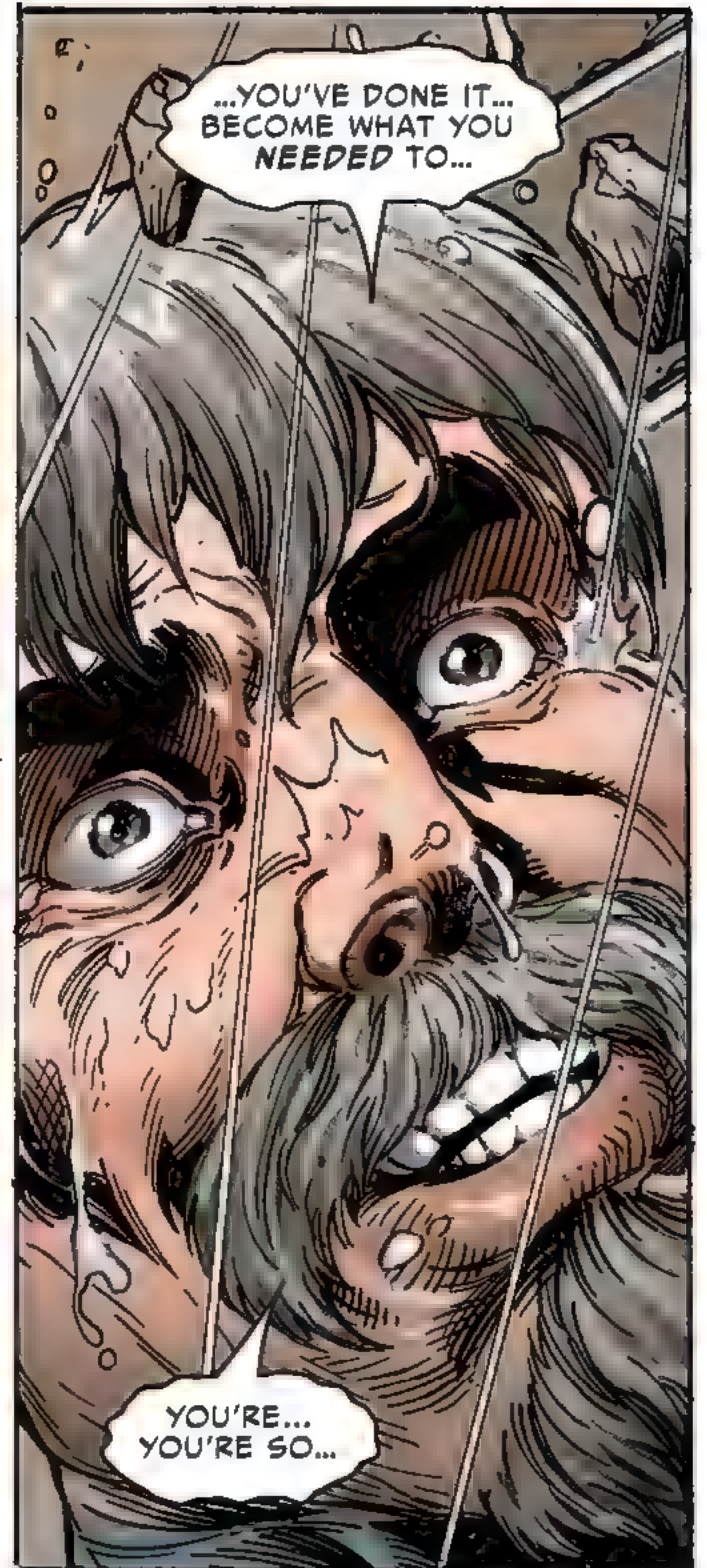
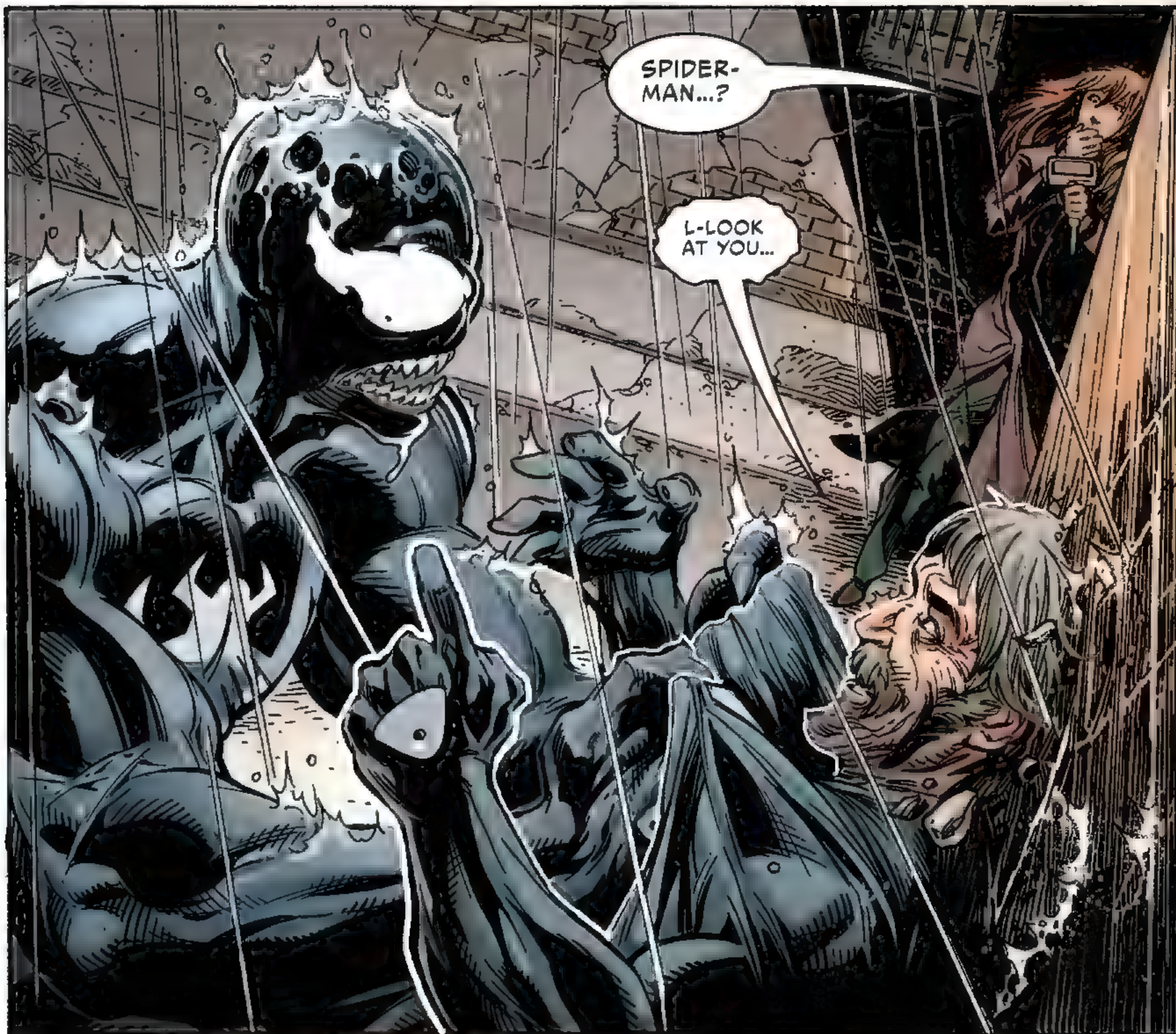




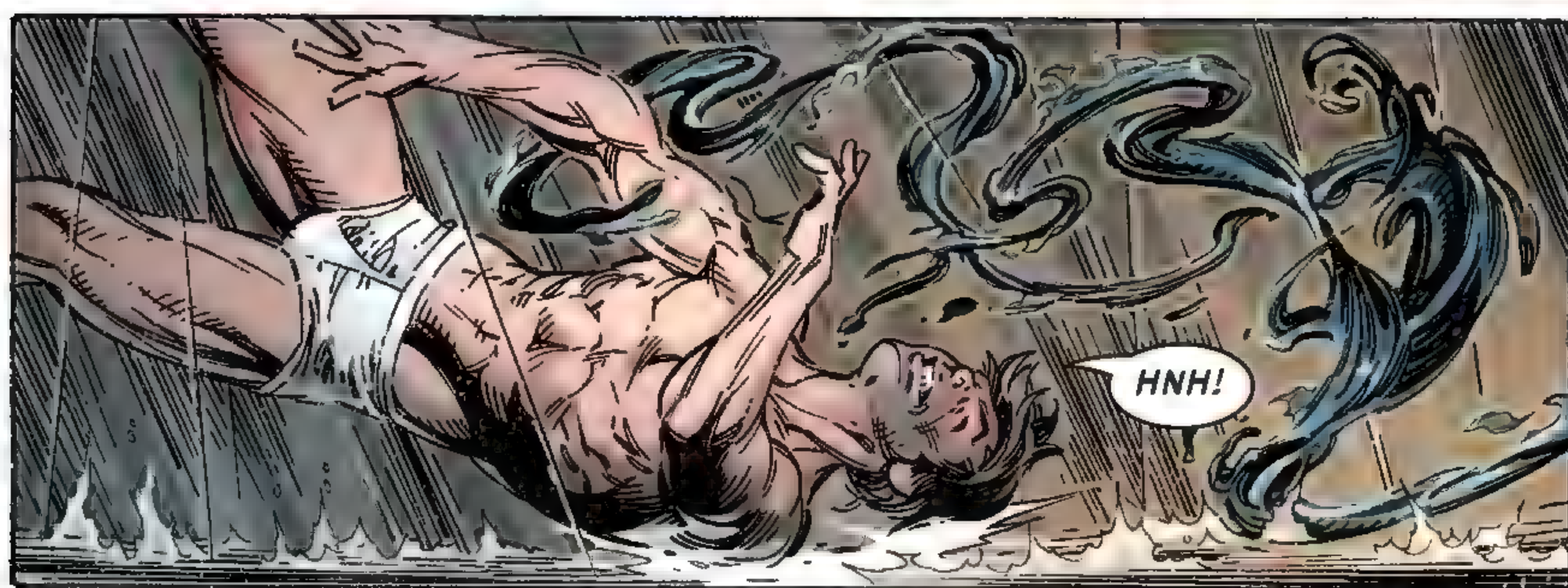




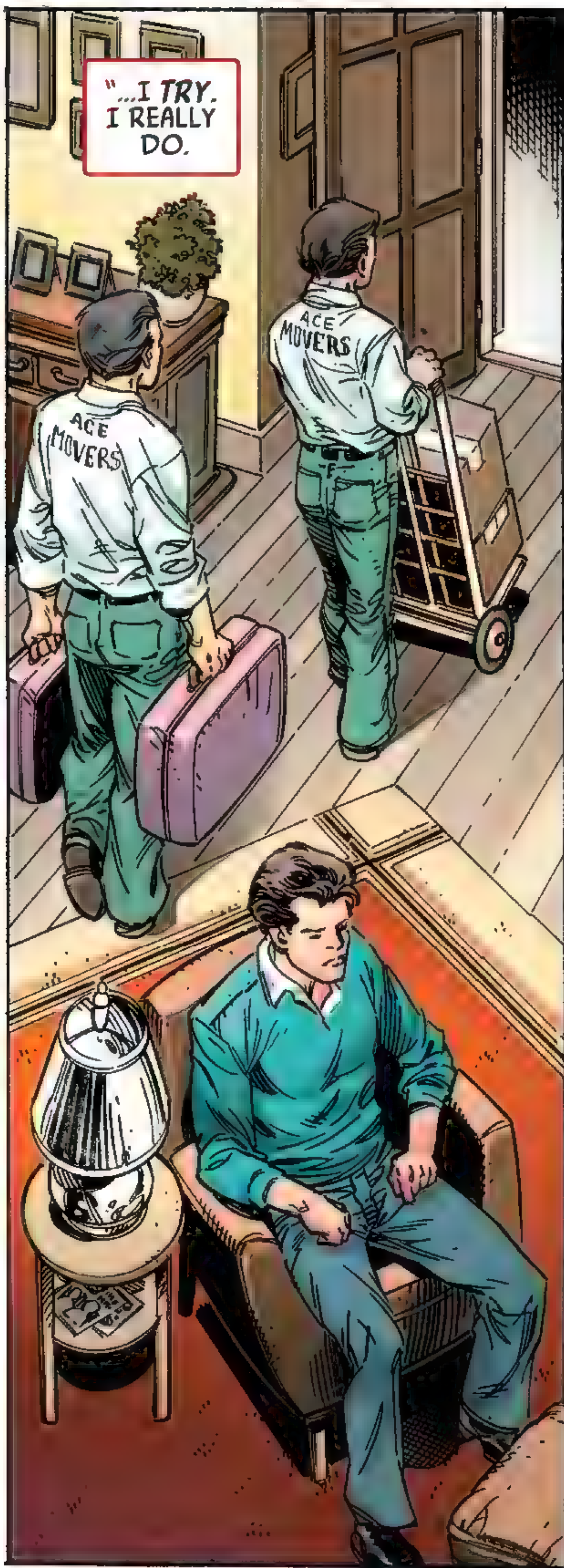




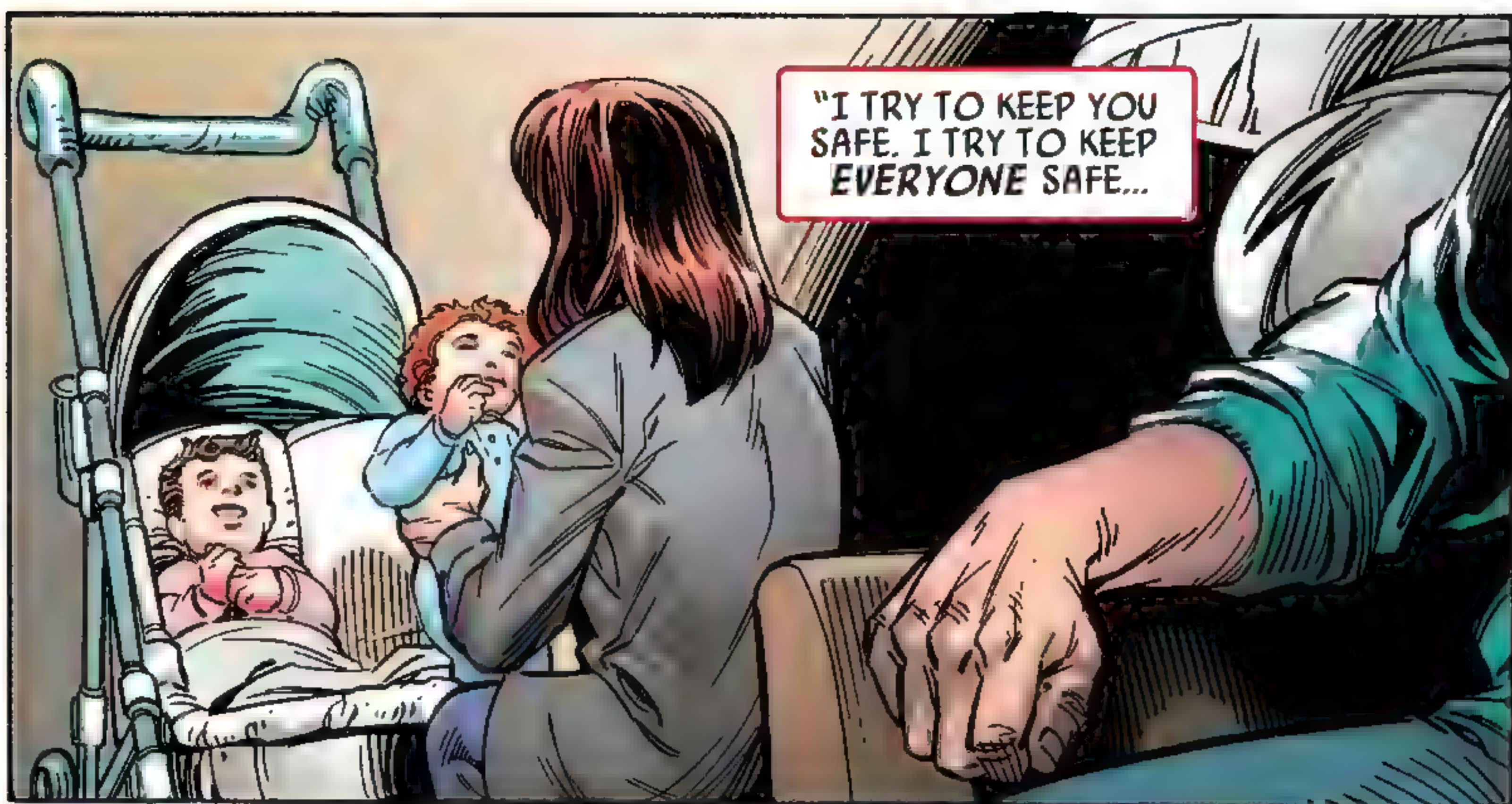








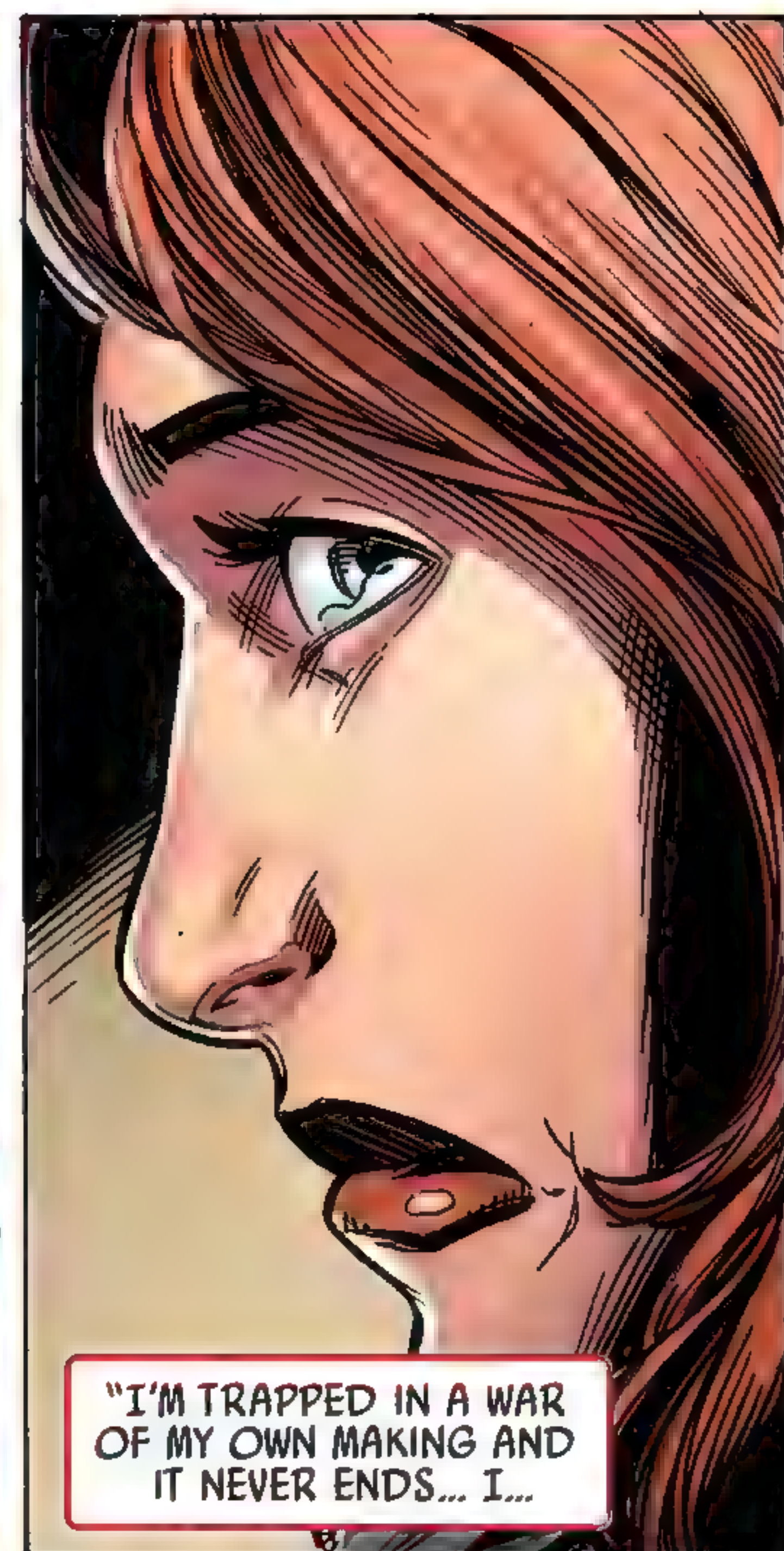
"...I TRY.  
I REALLY  
DO."



"I TRY TO KEEP YOU  
SAFE. I TRY TO KEEP  
EVERYONE SAFE..."



"...BUT IT  
ALWAYS FALLS  
APART."



"I'M TRAPPED IN A WAR  
OF MY OWN MAKING AND  
IT NEVER ENDS... I..."

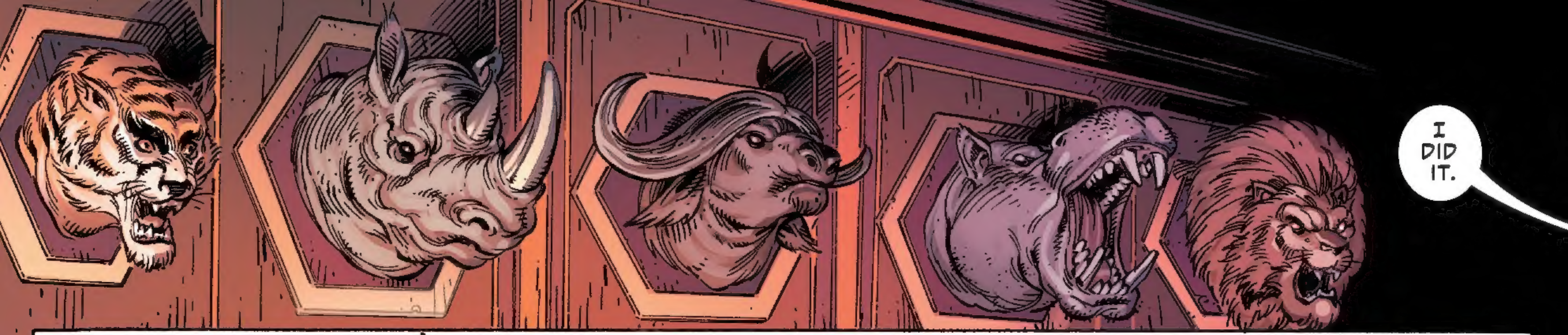


"I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT TO DO..."

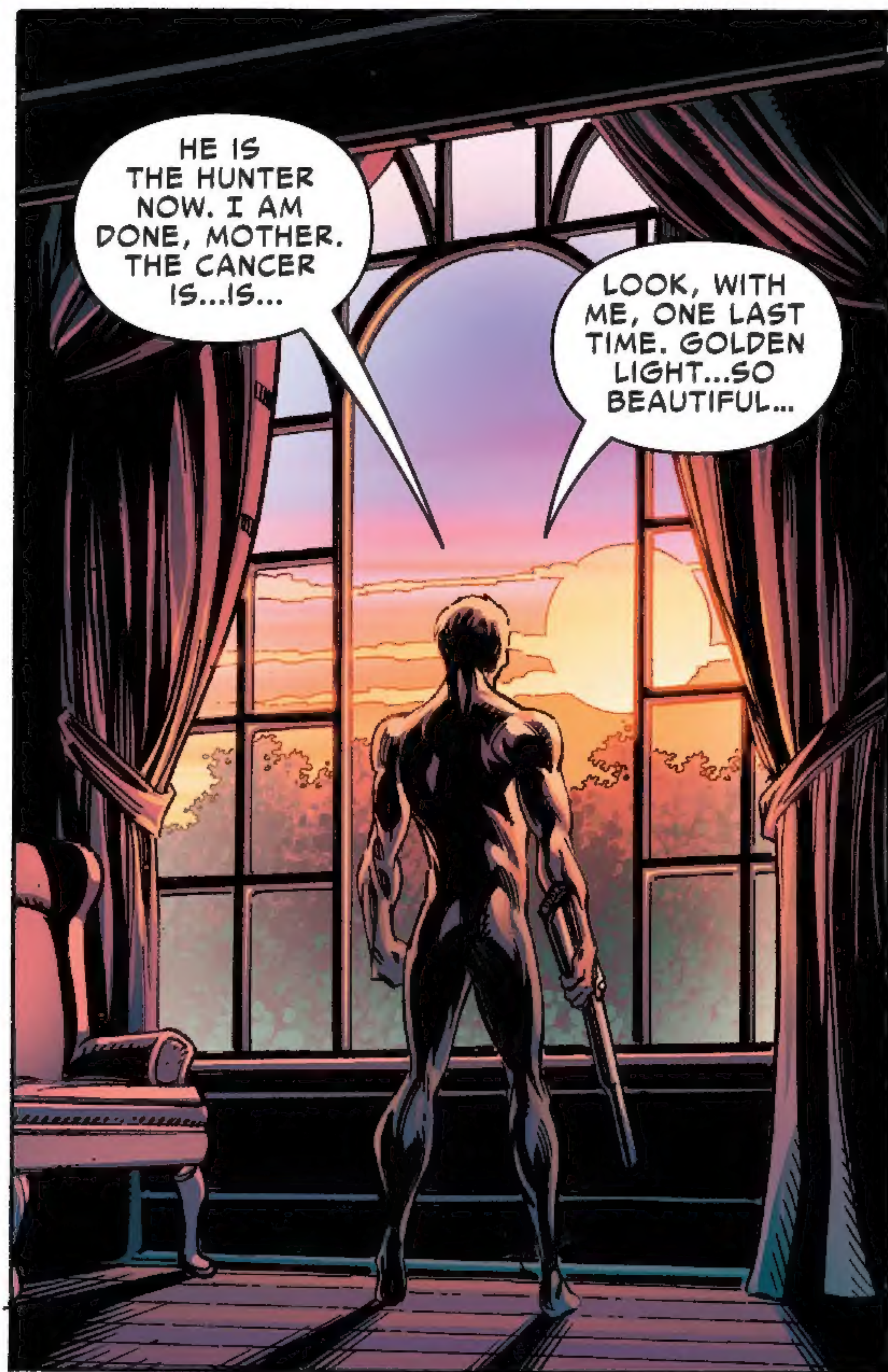


"...I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT TO DO."





I DID IT.

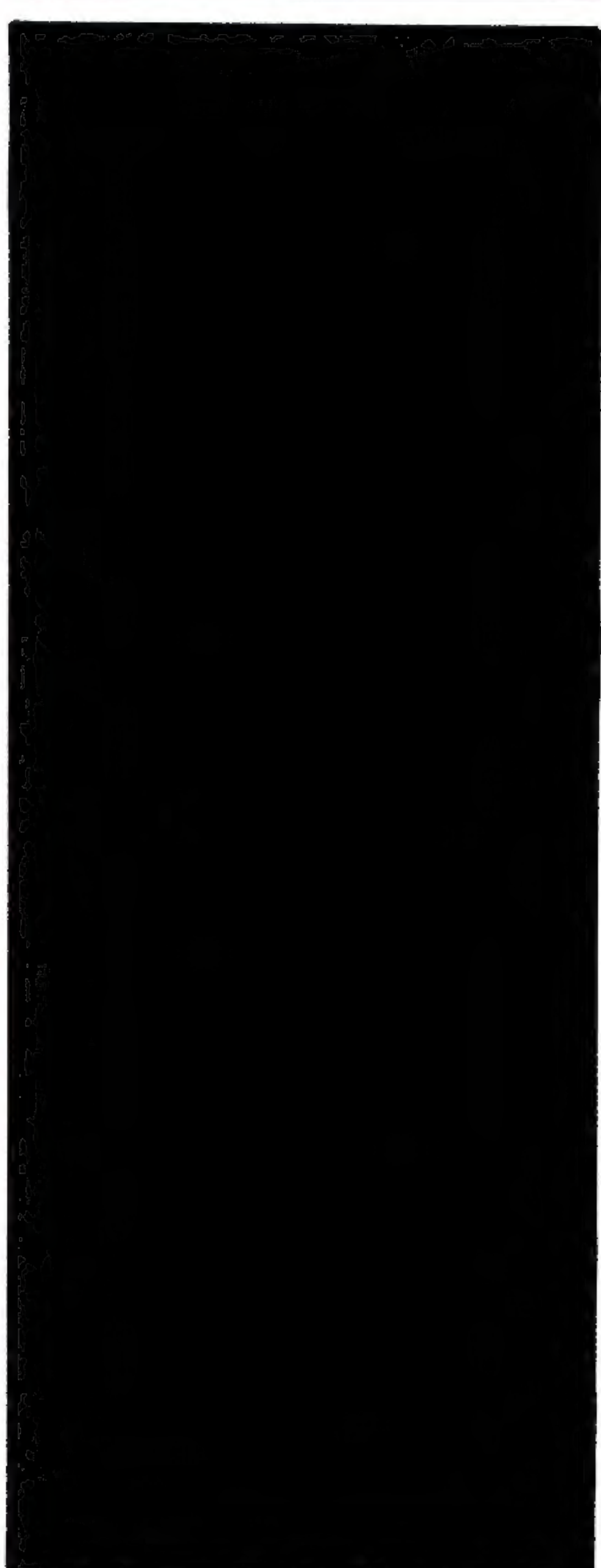


HE IS THE HUNTER NOW. I AM DONE, MOTHER. THE CANCER IS...IS...

LOOK, WITH ME, ONE LAST TIME. GOLDEN LIGHT...SO BEAUTIFUL...



...BUT I CANNOT HUNT THE SUN...





# NEXT ISSUE: THE 1990s





## STAN'S SOAPBOX!

**STAN'S SOAPBOX:**

We sometimes receive letters accusing us of publishing too many different titles. A number of fans have said it's too expensive trying to buy all our mags, and they ask us not to be so greedy, and to publish less of 'em. So, we thought you might like to hear OUR side of it. The only reason we constantly add new titles is because YOU ask for them. Thousands upon thousands of your letters demanded that we give Cap, Shell-Head, Namor, and all the others their own magazines. In fact, remember when we tried to discontinue the Hulk some years ago? Your unceasing outcry forced us to bring him back, despite the fact that it imposed a tremendous strain upon our already overworked staff. And each time we try to publish fewer 25¢ Summer Specials, you swamp us with letters demanding more than ever. Personally, we'd be happy to let up a bit. Many of us, including yours truly, haven't had a vacation in years! But, our policy was, is, and always will be to give Marveldom what it asks for, and judging by our ever-skyrocketing sales, we're not far from the mark. That's the lowdown, loyal one. We don't want you to spend all your bread on our mags, honest. But, so long as the dramatic demand for them continues, we can't turn a deaf ear. Anyway, remember this: no matter how many stories we create each month, our credo will always be the same — Nil Nisi Optimus — nothing but the best!

—Smiley

